

editorial opinion

Fretting about the Falklands?

When should college students start to worry about being shipped off to war? Would it be nice? Then the draft-age college students could sit back and concern themselves with some more pressing needs, like getting jobs.

Nonsense. The war in the Falklands shouldn't be expected to fade away quickly. But college students can't allow themselves to selfishly become paranoid over every skirmish an ally gets into. After all, Israel, which receives an awesome amount of military aid from the United States, has virtually been at war for years, and no American troops have been called into battle.

So, all you draft-age kids, sit back and... and do something worthwhile, but don't fret about the Falklands — just yet. Also, take comfort in the lack of coverage of events in El Salvador. (Remember that place?) Since the invasion of the Falklands, the media have cut back on the grim stories of turmoil in El Salvador — so everything must be OK. Right.

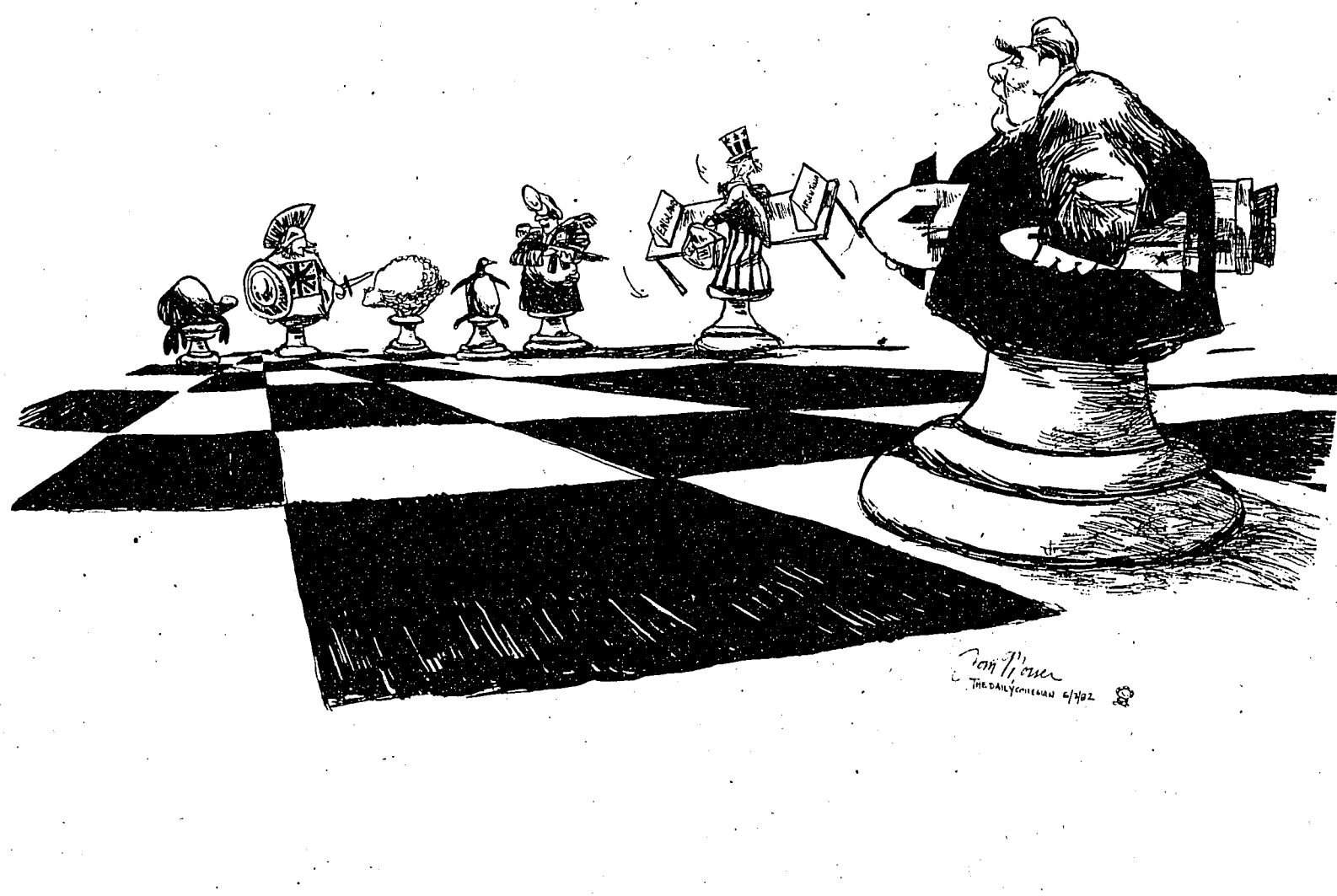
and maybe those Argentines will scoot right out of the Falklands.

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No, no, no. Need to become paranoid now. The United States has only pledged material support and has not gotten up on negotiations. The dispute over the Falkland Islands has been going on for around 150 years, so the skirmishes are not completely unexpected. The British troops may be able to handle the Argentines with little trouble. Yes sir, just a few more bomb-er-ros like Saturday night's



reader opinion

Support the freeze

We believe that the faculty, administration and students should provide leadership for fellow citizens in analyzing the great issues of our time. Nuclear war surpasses all others in its potential impact on every aspect of life.

We support the S.J. Hall-Kennedy bipartisan resolution to "freeze" the production and deployment of nuclear weapons. This resolution differs from other proposals by politicians and technicians in its simplicity, its feasibility, its verification, and the chances for a positive response from the Soviet Union.

We urge all our colleagues to write their Senators to support this position, which our Congressman W. F. Clinger has already endorsed.

From the College of Human Development
Frederic R. Eisele, associate professor
Walter E. Freeman, professor
Larry D. Gamm, associate professor
Peter B. Meyer, associate professor
Abram P. Snyder, associate professor
Raymond D. Studer, Jr., professor
Ted L. Vallance, professor
Carl E. Young, assistant professor
April 28

Exercise courtesy

A few things to think about regarding the bicycle-on-the-sidewalk controversy.

First, I am angry at Police Services who are saying that if I want to ride my bicycle from downtown Pugh Street to the Forum, I have to go all the way down to Burrows or all the way up to Shandridge, as well as negotiate that steep hill on Shandridge, to get on the campus.

I know the law prohibiting vehicles from sidewalks already exists. But until recently, there appeared to be no reason to rigorously enforce it. If Police Services is going to enforce it, they should rigorously enforce it. This means that all vehicular traffic is banned from sidewalks — bicycles, Pushman carts, University maintenance trucks. The law is not so selective, operating for some (cyclists) and not for others (maintenance?). If bicycles are ticketed, so should maintenance vehicles. (And what of motorized wheelchairs?)

Second, I am angry at cyclists who make enforcement of such rules necessary: the cyclists who think the sidewalks are raceways and who verbally abuse pedestrians who get in their way.

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 "Hurrah for the police!" And to you Diane, I point out that in 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..."

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

Carol McAfee, 12th-forest science
April 29

What lies ahead?

You want to know what will happen at Pennsylvania State University if President Reagan's budget goes through? I'm beginning to believe I'm a prime example: the \$1,700 I receive in loans and grants hardly cover my expenses here.

So, no problem, I'll get a job and pay the rest myself... except for one thing — nobody in State College seems to be aware of it.

I have a diversified background of jobs and the businesses of

State College fit those classifications. So why don't I have a job, despite searching since Winter Term?

There are two possible reasons: one, either the economy is in such bad shape that no one is buying anything; or two, it really is who you know that gets you a job.

The first can be rejected by simply walking downtown on a Saturday afternoon. I've yet to reject the second possibility, considering the amount of job applications I've submitted to various places of business.

In any small college town, this kind of scene will be common. You really want to know what will happen?

NO GRANTS + NO JOBS = DRASTIC DECLINE OF COLLEGE ENROLLMENT.

Thom Nies, 6th-computer science
April 30

Guilty as charged?

To hell with eloquency. The person in charge of Pattee Library's photocopies should be shot. Point blank.

A visit to the scene of the crime — the library — will reveal more than enough evidence to support the verdict. Not that you'll be able to photocopy any of that evidence!

James DiDonato, 12th-management
April 29

Sorry, fellas

Oh! We're so sorry. University Concert Committee Chairman Tom Swerzowski says that if "the student population isn't willing to support their organization, they won't be able to bring in that many concerts."

Never mind the support for J. Geils. Or Dylan. Or the Pretenders. Gosh, fellas, if we had known that this was so important to you, we would have dropped everything and gone. Never mind the Regatta. And never mind that (gasp!) we don't like Parker's music. Just don't get mad, OK? Are we still buddies?

Say — if Parker had played three times, that would have had the audience of 3,000 — 600 more than you needed. Would that have helped? Just asking.

Chris Nelson, 5th-foreign service
Joe Embler, 9th-Russian
April 30

the daily Collegian

Monday May 3, 1982
Phil Gulis
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Asst. Business Manager
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Office Manager

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its five-member Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of Collegian Inc. or The Pennsylvania State University.

Letters Policy: The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, signed by no more than two people and not longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the term, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter.

The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length, and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. Because of the numbers of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all the letters it receives.

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 publication in The Weekly Collegian.

About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, 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 students, parents of students, alumni and other subscribers who want to keep abreast of University news.

reader opinion

Offensive ad

Jews and Eastern Europeans: (Pictures of wooded lakes and mountains)

Tired of the war? Join us for a scenic, war-long vacation in beautiful Dakau, Germany! For only 97 cents, you can join hundreds of thousands of your delighted fellow tourists for rest and relaxation.

(Small print):
Sponsored by the Nazi Party, with the spiritual backing of Adolph Hitler, esp.

This is my response to The Daily Collegian's printing of the ad for a Moonie vacation in Denver. I'm sure the Collegian will find this ad as tasteful as the one it ran.

Before I'm attacked verbally, let me state that I am a member of a prominent Jewish line, and some of my relatives died in Nazi concentration camps. I consider the Moonies and groups like them (of which there are no others presently) to be a present danger.

Bill Riesser
Industrial engineering instructor
April 30

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News needs accuracy, 'context'

Newspaperman Joseph Pulitzer had simple advice for reporters: "Accuracy, Accuracy, Accuracy." His dictum is crucial, but insufficient. Readers need more than accuracy. They need "context" — the supportive and related information that makes a fact make sense.

In several recent stories in The Daily Collegian, both accuracy and context were lacking. On Monday, April 26, the Collegian headlined a front-page story: "About \$22,000 Raised at Sy Barash Regatta."

Nowhere in the story was Sy Barash identified. Readers therefore were not reminded of Barash's long career as a businessman in State College or his death from cancer. (Hence, the dedication of Regatta proceeds to the American Cancer Society.)

Nor could readers know that University Trustee Mimi Ungar Coppersmith is Barash's widow. Her comments on the event's success over the past eight years would have been enlightening.

An example of inaccuracy in the same article: the reporter noted that the funds raised at the Regatta "will be given to University Associate Professor of Biological Chemistry Frederick C. Wedler (sic — the name is Wedler) and Associate Professor of Microbiology Robert Schlegel in the form of grants."

"The article made it sound as if they were carrying the proceeds of the Regatta to my office in bags," Wedler said.

Wedler and Schlegel have been awarded Faculty Research Grants by the American Cancer Society; the Barash Regatta is just one of many events and organizations that contribute to the Cancer Society. There is no direct relationship between the Regatta and Wedler or Schlegel.

Another question: Grants for what? A more complex issue of lack of context appeared in the Collegian on Friday, April 23, in an article headlined "Bill Would Toughen Penalties for Drunk Driving."

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Don Owens, executive director of the state House of Representatives Liquor Control Com-



The article reported on one of several state Senate bills to impose heavy fines and mandatory jail sentences for convicted drunk drivers. The reporter quoted Bernard Chatman of the

mittee, tells me that the state's maximum penalty for drunk driving, one year in prison and a \$2,500 fine, has never been imposed.

The drunk driving story was in other respects accurate and was an important story by any standard. What was lacking — balance in the reference to bartenders and the context provided by an understanding of the penalties question — prevented the reader from understanding fully the implications of the story.

As Owens put it, "Some laws are written for political purposes or to respond to outside pressures. They aren't meant to be enforced and can't be enforced."

Impressions of a Readers' Representative after two weeks on the job: I've received several calls and letters from readers with specific complaints or comments about recent articles. I've also received several calls from Collegian readers of long standing. One said he had been "waiting 20 years for someone to tell this to." He then proceeded to list what he said was a catalogue of Collegian errors, some of them 10 or more years old.

It was a useful demonstration of the fact that readers really read this newspaper, and they have very good memories.

Kathleen A. Pavelko speaks for the readers of The Daily Collegian and comments regularly on the newspaper's journalistic performance.

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Topic: use of computers in banking and sales in computer business

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The Australian Studies Center cordially invites you to learn about study abroad at the Australian National University.

Your attendance and interest entails no obligation. Refreshments will be served.

The issue — or non-issue — of munching 'manders

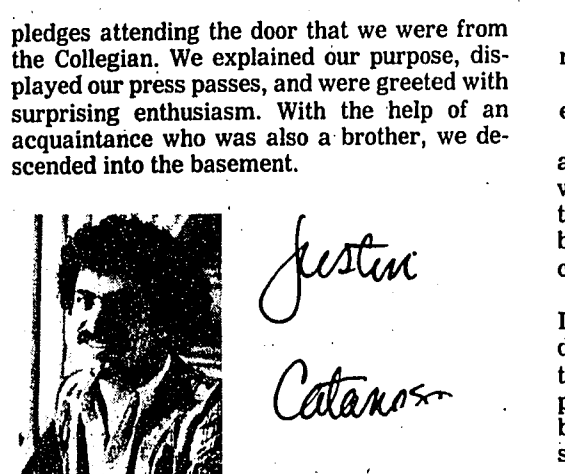
For the casual, semi-interested observer, the issue that pitted two militantly groups against each other last week was nothing short of ludicrous. Opinions were formed and voiced instantaneously. Harms were done. Everyone has opinions. Yet the controversy began with the opinion of one group encroached upon the opinion of the other. It followed like this:

George Cave, president of Trans-Species Unlimited, came looking for me Wednesday. The Phi Delta Theta fraternity live salamander swallow (a traditional part of its annual Bowery Ball) was to begin that evening and keeping to his group's position of protecting the rights of animals, he planned to have it stopped. This would be accomplished with the help of a search warrant and the State College Police.

Trans-Species believed swallowing salamanders alive violated the Commonwealth's cruelty to animals law while promoting the abusing of live animals for entertainment. He asked if I would cover the intended bust.

Later that night, Cave called. The search warrant was denied. Both the police and the University, to whom Trans-Species complained, were told by the fraternity they "do not eat salamanders." The fraternity also said a sign would be posted: "Please Don't Eat Manders." Cave was unconvincing. Several female members of Trans-Species went to the party and he asked if I too would go. A photographer and I did.

When we got to the fraternity, we told two



plodgers attending the door that we were from the Collegian. We explained our purpose, displayed our press passes, and were greeted with surprising enthusiasm. With the help of an acquaintance who was also a brother, we descended into the basement.

There we found the familiar clusters of brothers and guests, a saw-dust covered floor, and the homemade pond full of salamanders. The sign was in place. However, it wasn't long before I saw someone reach into his cup, dangle and drop it in. He chased it with a long swallow from the same cup.

No one really paid much attention. In fact, no one eating the salamanders — and there were quite a few — drew much attention until several started posing for the camera and answering my questions.

"It ticks a little, but you really can't taste anything," someone said.

"I can feel it kicking," said one woman, rubbing her stomach.

"It's a tradition," was the rallying call of the evening.

It seemed that as long as those we talked to and photographed, brothers included, thought we were there for promotional purposes, everything was fine. That all changed when some brothers realized we were there to check out the complaints by Trans-Species.

For more than an hour, the photographer and I were cornered by as many as 10 brothers determined to intimidate us from doing anything with the information collected and the photographs taken. The various stages of intimidation of those hearing down on us made the situation quite uncomfortable. It seemed like one rational comment was drowned out by irrational threats to smash the photographer's camera, take my notes and ultimately get even with us if anything appeared in the paper. A threat to kill me was also voiced.

Eventually, the intensity faded as the arguments and threats failed to produce the desired results. The photographer and I left the house unscathed.

(When contacted yesterday, fraternity member John Kaufman, who acted as the house spokesman throughout the week, declined to comment on Wednesday night's activity.)

Thursday morning, one fraternity member and a little sister asked the Collegian editor to block anything for publication about what hap-

pened the night before. They said the photographer and I had no authority to be there. They said they might sue.

"That afternoon, the issue, the original issue, moved to where it should have started: to a face-to-face meeting between three members each from Trans-Species and Phi Delta Theta.

In stark contrast to the previous evening's confrontation, both sides offered arguments and counter-arguments rationally and intelligently. For the fraternity members, it was the first time they were hearing Trans-Species' actual complaint.

Central to the complaint was that salamanders were being eaten alive. Cave said that legally constituted cruelty to animals. Kaufman, a biology student, questioned where one draws the line. Fishermen use salamanders for bait. Is sticking them with a hook more humane than swallowing them alive?

The arguments, worked through in detail, came to a full circle when Kaufman suggested having the salamanders killed before any were eaten. Trans-Species found the compromise acceptable. Member Sylvia Carson said, "It brought them within the framework of the law."

A five-point agreement was drawn up and later signed by Cave and fraternity president Randy Thompson.

Still, neither side was completely satisfied with the results. Kaufman said it was his opinion that Trans-Species had no right to single out the fraternity's activity and judge it right or

wrong.

"I have no qualms with other people's opinions," Kaufman said. "However, there is a difference between an opinion and passing judgment. I have trouble understanding how someone else has an additional insight into seeing that their opinion is more important, or that it's correct."

Under the cruelty to animals law, Cave said Trans-Species was indeed correct in pursuing its opinion even if it crossed into the private realm of a fraternity house.

The law is broad and imprecise enough to support Cave's claim in an argument. Whether or not it would hold up in court is another question. State College Police Lt. Jack Orndorf said, "As far as I know, salamanders are not protected by law."

Orndorf could be underestimating that law, but regardless, the legality of salamander swallowing won't be decided this year. And essentially, it seems that nothing was really changed. Salamanders were eaten at Phi Delta Theta until its Bowery Ball ended Saturday, the only difference being they didn't squirm when swallowed.

It's my guess that the entire issue, or as some people are apt to see it, non-issue, is still left open for interpretation and naturally, further opinions.

Justin Cotano is a 12th-year Journalism major and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Zitch.

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