

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Friday, Sept. 24

## editorial opinion

### Football follies?

Football fans across the country will settle down in their armchairs this Saturday and watch Penn State battle Nebraska. CBS coverage of the game will bring Penn State \$500,000 and the prestige of being broadcast on national television, which is always gratifying.

But along with the fame and fortune comes an added danger, a danger that will be minimal if the fans sitting on hard benches in Beaver Stadium keep a few things in mind.

Tailgaters will have two extra hours before the game. And rather than stay at home watching cartoons, most tailgaters will show up at the stadium the same time they usually do and party a little longer. With the game beginning later in the afternoon, fans will have more time to drink and will be more likely to drive home drunk.

Which is related to the next problem — getting out of the stadium. Because the game will not be over until later, people who would usually stay for tailgates after the game will be leaving en masse, clogging the outlying roads for at least an hour.

And all that traffic will be straining to get out of the stadium under a different type of lighting. Jim Tarman, director of intercollegiate athletics, has said that, after the game, some of the lights used during the game will be turned around to face the parking lots. Fans will have to adjust to the new phenomenon of maneuvering out of Beaver Stadium under the glare of bright lights.

So, should the University tell the boys at CBS to pack up their bags and go home? Should the University scorn the \$500,000 bounty in the name of increased safety for all?

No. The University's athletics program can use CBS money to help fund other sports.

Although a Penn State game has never started this late, Penn State has weathered similar situations. Fans have left Pitt games under similar lighting.

Saturday's game should be an enjoyable one. That is, if fans drive, drink and behave properly. After all, Sunday's headlines should read Penn State kills Nebraska and not 500 killed in wild stampede.

### Spring Creek's comeback?

'Spring Creek has been able to regenerate itself time and time again because there are so many good streams feeding it. But nobody ever helps it. As soon as it starts to make a comeback, somebody dumps a load of chemicals in it.'

—Joe Humphreys, a conservationist and expert trout fisherman

Benton's suspicions were confirmed when the state Department of Environmental Resources discovered Kepone and other cancer-causing chemicals in the stream came from the storage lagoons, located beneath the plant site on Route 26, which were deteriorated by acidic rain.

After years of legal maneuvers, in June 1981 the DER ordered the company to remove the wastes beneath the plant and build a better groundwater facility.

As part of the clean-up, the company will have to pump the waste out of the lagoons, treat it and move 350 to 400 truck loads of the Chemfix soil-like material to a new disposal site in Ohio.

DER officials are optimistic the stream will recover if Ruetgers-Nease completes this clean-up process. But DER official William Parsons said it might take several years before the stream is rid of the Kepone and other chemicals.

It seems Spring Creek might make another comeback. No one, however, is willing to say that the clean-up will bring the stream back to its original state. That would take a miracle.

Thornton Spring Creek in Lemont has survived man-made pollution in the past and probably will again, but this time the company responsible for the pollution is apparently making an attempt to clean up the stream.

However, it seems this clean-up is the least Ruetgers-Nease Chemical Company Inc. can do about an almost hopeless situation.

Frances Benton, who owns the creek, said last year that the deterioration of Spring Creek began in 1957 when the former Nease Chemical Co. built its plant. After the plant had been built, Benton said the water began to smell and yellow slime formed on the creek's bottom. Benton suspected the company was responsible.



## reader opinion

### Rivals

When I read Kathleen Pavello's comments about newspapers and competition in the Sept. 13 issue of The Daily Collegian I couldn't believe my eyes. She is quite right in saying that competition can be a spur in a journalist's side but some other remarks and insinuations cannot go unchallenged.

She should realize The Centre Daily Times and the Collegian are not even close to matching the Pulitzer Prize performance of the papers of Los Angeles and Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Inquirer had tough competition for years from The Bulletin, and still does from the many suburban publications.

The only competition I see between the Collegian and the CDT is who prints the most pages. As stated, the Collegian caters to the students and the CDT is for everyone else. Philadelphia is anything but journalistically deficient and if Ms. Pavello visited the local newspaper occasionally she would see that the Inquirer even has a strong following in this area.

One point overlooked in her article was the new Sunday edition of the CDT. I feel this was a legitimate step toward improving the image of that paper. Yet a paper that publishes only

six (or five) out of seven days still has room for improvement in that area.

One last issue not mentioned in the article concerns mistakes. Whether they involve grammar, photography or editorial policy, each paper could gain much on its competitor if the large number of mistakes were reduced. Everyone is human, but how many times can you let a 1929 Westinghouse refrigerator make the front page or read an article unit for English 10?

The two papers do an adequate job of reporting the news and I am a more-than-occasional reader of both. Yet there are days when I find my main book more appealing. However I am hopeful that as rivals, each paper will give it the "ole college try" and start satisfying their readers.

Louise Witt, 10th-political science  
Sept. 21

architecture department could sponsor a course in design analysis of gazebos while the department of man-environment relations could offer a course on behavioral aspects of student-gazebo relations. There could be a history course called gazebos through the ages and the political science department could create a seminar on gazebo-class workers' impact on the American political structure.

Now, when I stroll past those romantic pavilions, I sigh with pleasure, and reflect on the contributions they can make to society. And to think all this can be possible because of a \$30,000 donation.

Kenneth Fioravanti, 10th-metallurgy  
Sept. 17

Whenever there is a home football game at Beaver Stadium, countless numbers of fans get psyched for the game by tailgating. Each one of the fans there carries a great deal of enthusiasm and spirit into the stadium, ready to cheer on the Lions.

The crowd usually follows the cheer initiated by the pep squad and the Penn State cheerleaders. This year at the helm of the squad is one Gregg Cook, alias "Mr. Mike." I believe Mr. Cook is a very poor choice to head the cheer or the "Go Bananas" cheer and "Get the Ball You All" chant during the game.

Mr. Cook, why don't you resign and hang up your microphone. That way, the enthusiasm the fans bring in with them won't be wasted.

Sal Bronti, 5th-agricultural business management  
Sept. 20

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## Paper spells success at Penn State and beyond

By ROGER KARAPIN  
Liberal Arts Student

Hold on to that paper  
Hold on to that paper  
Hold on because it's been taken care of  
Hold on to that paper

—David Byrne  
(Copyright 1979 Index Music/Bleu Disque Music Co. Inc.)

To the sophisticated University student, paper is where it's at. Syllabuses, exams, graduation requirement checklists, letters of recommendation, transcripts, resumes: with these papers, the student can chart her way through a degree at Penn State and emerge with the future he or she wants. If he or she does the course work (on paper) in the right major and gets good grades, then he or she will graduate with the right degree, receive so many dollars and be successful.

The procedure for succeeding is determined and well-marked; every student needs only to carefully execute the formula. Control the paper and you will be a success at the University and be on your way to winning in life too.

Of course planning is not itself an extraordinary human activity. It seems as though we spend much of our time trying to grasp and control the future, to write a script and then live it. The University may (among other things) teach us to apply rationality

(the rationality of deductive logic) to our planning. Mimicking the University, we might try to logically analyze a personal problem, discover a rational solution, and apply it in order to produce an assured outcome.

We seem to have strong reasons to accept and rely on a purely logical method of making decisions. The University, a respected institution, is a thoroughly rationalized structure. At every turn, it teaches us implicit lessons about the authority of rationality: at registration, at drop-add, through computer scoring and calculation of grades, and even in the division of the day into periods of standard length. Everywhere we go a specified procedure seems to produce a completely predictable conclusion.

### forum

But this search for control and logical certainty is dangerous in several ways. First, it leads to unrealistic expectations about how predictable the future is, and perhaps to shock or refusal to recognize the truth when things do not work out as planned. Second, many problems and challenges in our daily lives are not susceptible to logical analysis and controlled solutions; they include any situation which involves

people, (even if only ourselves), their feelings, thoughts and actions. When confronted with such problems, we may be tempted to do one of two things: redefine the problem to make it entirely logical, or attempt to directly control the unpredictable elements, notably other people.

For example, for purposes of planning rationally, people sometimes reduce the problem of attaining personal happiness to the problem of accumulating wealth. Even more serious, people often approach relations with others from the standpoint of how to control and make predictable the other person's actions. People want friends and lovers they can count on, but often this means attempts to control; the resulting games and power maneuvers can poison a relationship, cause mutual antagonism, distrust, disrespect and ultimately, destroy love.

Finally, even attempts to control simple, material aspects of the environment are not guaranteed success. The future is not very predictable in a society as complex as ours. Accidents (fortunate or unfortunate) are likely to play a large role in our lives, whether we like it or not. Job forecasts can change rapidly, or a diploma may secure a first job but not a second or third. The best job on paper can turn into a dead end or unemployment, the most stable marriage into angry divorce, economic security into widespread economic depression, nuclear superiority into nuclear holocaust. The

quest for certainty in all aspects of life is doomed to failure.

Why can't we control, or at least accurately predict, the future? The answer lies in the uncertainty inherent in all human activity. For one thing, communication between people is usually very uncertain; difficulties arising from different experiences, language conventions, and conceptual frameworks are — from the misunderstanding of subtlety and intentions limit attempts to communicate.

For another, our emotional lives have great impact on our behavior, but they are usually poorly understood, and in any case notoriously difficult to control or predict. So, much of human behavior (even our own) will appear spontaneous to us. Trying to control people can come to no good; only each person can attempt to determine her life and herself.

The sun should rise tomorrow.  
Just like today.  
I'd like to guarantee it.  
But it's more than I can say.  
I see the world around me;  
I act in the play.  
But I won't make predictions.  
'Cause it just don't work that way.  
—Scott Snyder, 1980 PSU graduate (Copyright 1982)

This does not seem to leave us with very much: no certainty, no control, no hope of seeing our plans acted out. But to know that processes in society must be spontaneous

and uncontrolled does not prevent us from setting goals or from acting to reach them. However, in setting goals, we must respect the unpredictability of people's actions, and cope with the unpredictability of our complex world; these limits make any goal less than certainly attainable.

We should also appreciate the importance of accidents in our lives. As an exercise, list the important people and activities in your life, and try to decide if you first came across them mostly intentionally or mostly by accident. Knowing that accidents provide some of our best opportunities helps us to recognize them in the future; it frees us from the closed-minded attempt to execute a chosen plan.

Another major benefit comes from adjusting to uncertainty. Personal relationships have a much better chance of benefiting the people involved if attempts to control others are abandoned, and everyone's spontaneity and right to attempt self-determination are recognized and respected. People are not to be controlled; the best of life flows freely, spontaneously, and cannot be delivered by the cold, iron grip of control and certainty. Uncertainty may be frightening; however, it also opens up dimensions for everyone to make his own life, uncontrolled, and that is a valuable thing. No one can live on paper.

Don't think I can fit it on the paper  
Don't think I can get it on the paper  
Go ahead and rip up, rip up the paper  
Go ahead and tear up, tear up the paper.  
—David Byrne (copyright 1979 Index Music/Bleu Disque Music Co. Inc.)

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**POST GAME**

Due to the late scheduling for television the HUB EATERIES will not be open after the Nebraska game only.

People with foresight read The Daily Collegian. But you already knew that, didn't you?