

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Wednesday, Sept. 29

editorial opinion

A fair trial

A historical battle between the First Amendment freedom of the press and the rights to due process of law and a fair trial has raged for more than 200 years. It is usually a distant, sensational battle that often graces national news pages and never hits quite so close to home.

But now, the battle has come to State College.

The Centre Daily Times has filed a petition that challenges the private filing of an omnibus pre-trial motion by the defendant's attorney in the Kinser murder case. Subramanyam Vadam of State College is charged with first degree murder in the 1980 gunshot murder of Thomas E.P. Kinser.

In filing the petition, the newspaper makes strong, valid contentions: The public has the right to know the contents of the pre-trial criminal processes, and the media has the right to inform them of what is happening.

The paper's contentions — ones that have triumphed several times in history — are part of the press' performance of the watchdog function. The CDT is correct in those

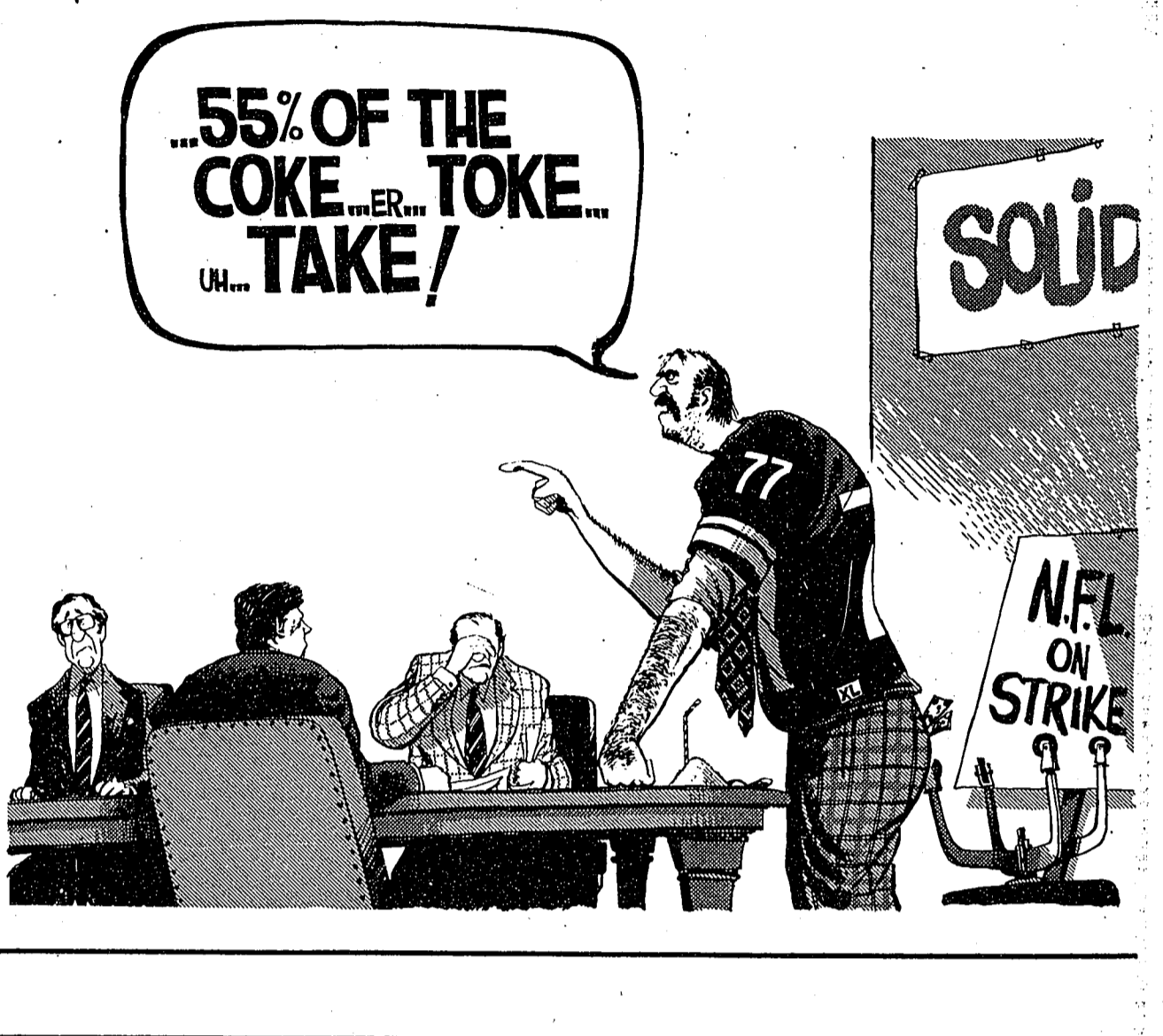
actions. However, other important rights are at stake.

All people have the individual right to the due process of law, and the ultimate right to a fair trial. To secure those rights and possibly prevent their hindrance, Vadam's attorney filed the pre-trial motion privately; Vadam's rights could be severely damaged if he has been given unfair or sensationalized treatment in the media.

Legal technicalities aside, the battle comes down to a difficult, basic choice: whose interest is greater?

Even though the CDT takes a fair stand in behalf of both its and society's interests, the individual's right should be respected and honored. Our Constitution provides defendants with certain protective rights to ensure that they get a fair chance in the legal process, if nothing more.

To deny him the right to due process is to deprive him of a liberty that historically has been upheld and viewed as a cornerstone of the constitutional protections of the individual.



reader opinion

Debating skill

Poor Tony Lenz, assistant professor of speech communication, was not able to disengage state Rep. Cunningham without pointing out a positive aspect of that legislator; namely, his debating skill.

Mrs. Rudy can't have it both ways. She can't present herself as an "experienced" candidate and then turn around and plead to someone's chivalry on the grounds of inexperience.

But what would best serve the voters? On the floor of the House in Harrisburg, where legislators have been known to come to physical blows, do we need a representative who is going to stand there wringing her hands, crying, "You are intimidating me!"?

Editor Mrs. Rudy is thoroughly experienced in political games — in which case it appears she is trying to put something over on the voters; or she is politically naive — in which case her inexperience would not be beneficial to the voters of the area.

4 deadline and TO VOTE on Nov. 2. Voting does make a difference in the outcome of elections and more importantly, it makes a difference in how voters are viewed by their representatives in government.

In the most recent borough election, for example, a ten percent student voter turnout could have substantially altered the election's outcome. This coupled with the fact that most state and federal representatives are acutely aware of the voting habits of their constituents tends to increase the importance of your vote.

Your democratic rights are useless unless they are exercised. Thus the impact of your vote cannot be stressed enough. When you realize the extent of the effect it has on your life, it is more of an obligation than a right.

For voter registration information contact the department of political affairs, 203 HUB, or call 868-0255.

USG Executive Council
Sept. 24

must for this calendar, as is Mayor Arnold Addison. What local calendar could be complete without state Rep. Gregg L. Cunningham, perhaps posed defending a zygotote from a "girls" abortion? Chief of Police Edward G. Williams, U.S. Rep. William F. Clinger, District Magistrate Clifford Yorks, and not to be forgotten, Penn State's own (big "boy") football Coach Joe Paterno.

Perhaps State College Municipal Council member Fred Honsberger, or other male council members, and the editor of the Centre Daily Times, Bill Welch. Possibilities are unlimited, and of course, would be "tasteful" portraits of each man representing a particular time in his own inimitable way.

At an earlier time, as I walked past Sparks' lawn, I heard a "girl" lament; she wouldn't want a "girl" to run the country. "Girls" bring to mind preschool children. I, also, would not want a "girl" to run any country, but I think the possibility of a woman, qualified and able, would do at least as good, if not a helluva lot better than do the men who seek only to self-destruct. And you may have noticed, their self-destruction will take up a lot more space than the self.

Cunningham had to give a copy of his "personal" letter to Rudy to the press so the voters could know what she is up to.

Never mind the fact that these "reports" are mere unconfirmed rumours about Rudy's campaign! Cunningham challenges Rudy to cite an instance in the past that he has practiced unscrupulous campaign tactics, and then in the same breath denies her the same opportunity. So much for courtesy!

While we're on the subject of unscrupulous campaign practices, I would like to cite just one example of how Cunningham has used such tactics in the past. Four years ago, when he narrowly defeated incumbent Helen Wise for state representative, he and Wise participated in a debate sponsored by the State College League of Women Voters at the Fairmount Elementary School.

Toward the end of the debate, Cunningham accused Wise of voting with the democratic leadership in order to gain certain "perks." Cunningham stated that Mrs. Wise had been rewarded for her loyalty with a plush, private office and a personal secretary.

Not only did Mrs. Wise and her husband emphatically deny her ever receiving such "perks", but anyone who visited her office in Harrisburg could clearly see that she shared a small office and one secretary on the top floor of the Capitol with at least three or four other state representatives! Let the voters decide, Mr. Cunningham, if the above example constitutes unscrupulous campaigning!

Finally, I challenge Cunningham to publish the "stricter standard of campaign practice" that he is abiding by. The "so-called oath" to which Mrs. Rudy has committed herself was probably established by some inconsequential boy like the Federal Elections Commission. Imagine a candidate lowering herself to such unscrupulous standards as that!

I'm sure Cunningham's standard is much higher than hers, since he alone just happened to hear rumours that she is planning personal attacks, and his letter just happened to fall into the hands of the press and he just happened to send out a mass mailing which wraps him in a hunting jacket with his good buddies Dick and Bill, which just happened to

hit the mailboxes of his district on the same day his unethical letter hit the press.

These practices may have fooled a slim majority in 1978, Mr. Cunningham, but like a good referee the voters are sure to yell foul and flush you out the second time around on November 2nd!

Victor E. Dupuis, Penn State alumni, class of '82
Sept. 28

Vote!

A fundamental right we have as citizens of a democracy is the right to vote for those individuals who will represent us in governmental forums. Unfortunately the opportunity to exercise this right has been neglected by the vast majority of students at the University.

The negligence of this right — at a time when critical decisions are being made that affect both our short and long term interests — can only be regarded as non-prudent and potentially injurious to student concerns because those concerns are not being adequately articulated.

In light of this, we, the members of the Executive Council of the Undergraduate Student Government, strongly encourage students to REGISTER TO VOTE before the Oct.

Girls or women?

As if we had been visionaries — or, perhaps, seeing things — a cohort and I, on Saturday, prepared a design for the Men of State College calendar to complement the Girls of Penn State calendar. Tasteful poses aside, "girls", while all the world may consider the term "girls" complimentary in suggesting youth (that's complimentary?), the term also suggests immaturity and dependence (on men, of course). On Sept. 20, The Daily Collegian announced a Men of Penn State calendar. I wondered, are these men so much older than are the women, uh, girls?

State College: where the men are men and the women are girls; why, then, not a companion calendar, Boys of Penn State?

But, seriously, folks, our choices for men of State College are noticeably older, and (in theory) at most, more mature than are the "girls" of Penn State.

University President John W. Oswald is a

Fooll

Once again state Rep. Gregg Cunningham has exhibited his terminal hoof-in-mouth illness. Although any individual with a reasonable ability to watch through his verbal excrement can see just who is campaigning from the sewer, a few important points deserve closer attention.

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The possibility of a new, exciting Dark Age

"The most merciful thing in all the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents. We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far.

The sciences, each straining in its own direction, have hitherto harmed us little; but some day the piecing together of dissociated knowledge will open up such terrifying vistas of reality, and of our frightful position therein, that we shall either go mad from the revelation or flee from the deadly light into the peace and safety of a new dark age."

—H.P. Lovecraft, "The Call of Cthulhu," Weird Tales, February, 1928.

brought a balance to the world of magic and spiritualism; Buck would like to see some of that mystery restored in modern life.

"The bright new way of looking at the world now is the restoration of some of this subjective element.

"We're discovering that the human brain

is capable of an awful lot that we hadn't thought possible."

In almost all areas of life, Buck says, most people ignore their instinctive reactions and thus totally miss a great deal of joy.

"An awful lot of what might be classified as neuroses and symptoms of mental illness may be just signs of making full use of your human capacity."

But, ironically, Buck seems to de-emphasize the importance of counseling — the very medicine that might help us handle daily hassles and the effects of the calamities of the past 25 years that Buck believes have exhausted our culture.

Other than the economic turmoils of the last quarter century, it has been a period scared with the brutal assassinations of the Kennedys, and Martin Luther King, youth rebellions, urban decay and crime, Vietnam, Watergate, the Hostage crisis... the list goes on.

"Within a quarter of a century, you've had these wrenching events... forcing, challenging, calling into question much of what we thought of as the American way."

It would be hard to deny that we're living in a weird age; it does sometimes feel that our society is at a turning point, a watershed where the life we hold so dear may eventually slip from our hands.

"The ends of centuries tend to be periods of romantic stirrings both in terms of the future as well as the past. It's also the end of a millennium, the end of a thousand years."

But completely irrational reactions to these social explosions tend to backfire. Generally, Americans tend to assume a romantic view of the past.

Buck sees that kind of nostalgia as harmful if we let it seep into such areas as public policy. An example of this romantic longing, Buck and I agree, was Ronald Reagan's election to the presidency.

World War II unemployment and more than 17,000 businesses going under just this year; Reaganomics is an example of how irrationalism, pure and simple, fails in public policy and in every facet of life.

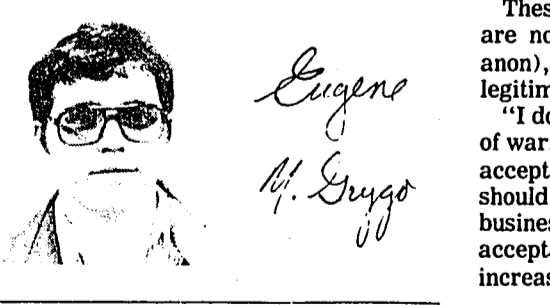
Buck foresees a new romanticism shaping up in our society that has its ugly side in the form of a new militarism. Men in uniforms might be worshipped again.

"These new wars that we're having now are not popular (the Falklands and Lebanon), (but) I think war is... getting a new legitimacy.

"I don't think we've forgotten the horrors of war, but we're looking upon war as more acceptable... There's a reason why we should be justifiably angry on this nuclear business because if war becomes more acceptable, then the danger of nuclear war increases."



Roy C. Buck



Eugene M. Grygo

Buck senses, as I do, that Reagan may not change your life, but he may convince you to grin and bear it. Especially when he reassures you that the best is past.

"Reagan is somewhat of an ideologue, something of a romantic... I think that like much nostalgic activity, it frequently lacks long-run strength, long-run contact. I think that many people who voted for Reagan, and voted for this whole perspective, wouldn't vote for it again."

But the reasons many people might not vote again for Reaganomics are economic, not mystical. With the highest post-

World War II unemployment and more than 17,000 businesses going under just this year; Reaganomics is an example of how irrationalism, pure and simple, fails in public policy and in every facet of life.

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