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# opinions.

The Daily Collegian

Thursday, Dec. 16

### editorial opinion

## And millions wait for an answer

ing for a solution. The problem: unemployment. The solu-

tion: unknown. Although more than 11 percent of the country's work force is without a job, Washington seems to have no answer.

President Reagan and Congress have almost settled on a 5-cent-a-gallon increase in the gasoline tax as a partial solution. But that remedy is aimed primarily at fixing the country's deteriorating roads, bridges and sewers. While that's necessary, not many jobs will be created by the measure.

The House of Representatives tried to find another placebo yesterday. It passed a jobs program, which unfortunately, is also not the answer. Job programs are historically expensive, inefficient short-term solutions. With Reagan proposing a budget with a \$155 billion deficit, the country certainly cannot afford an expensive jobs program that will not help eliminate the situation in

The United States has entered a period of major change in its industries. As robots and computerization increase in popularity, mid-level jobs quickly disappear. In other words, the country has entered a period of structural unemployment; a period in which many people are going to be laid off and never rehired. The answer then?

The country must take the younger mem-

More than 12 million people are screambers of the structurally unemployed and retrain them to enter the job market again. While this program would also be expensive, its long-term benefits would outweigh

the expense. Of course, Reagan and Congress cannot ignore the need to revitalize the economy. Even if hundreds of thousands of men and women are immediately retrained, they would enter an economy that cannot handle

What about the older people in the structurally unemployed? Those men and women probably won't ever work again. What then is the answer for them?

The only answer Congress and the administration could find is a reworking of the unemployment insurance program to ensure they will be able to survive even though they can't work.

Where does all this lead?

This year's bout with unemployment unlike previous matches — is not a problem that will go away when the country finally hits its economic bottom and starts to recov-

Reagan and Congress must begin to formulate a bipartisan long-term economic plan that attempts to deal with all the country's economic problems. As they attempt their political maneuvers, they must remember that at least 12 million people depend on their success.

## Open invitation?

Reversing a declining membership trend, sororities come to campus, they would sororities are experiencing a resurgence in merely be filling their alloted space. demands, the Panhellenic Council may invite more sororities to Penn State. If presentations from the nine national sororities not already on campus are favorable, Penn State could see a greek invasion like that of

However, unlike Troy, sororities have every right to be here. That's not the prob-

Difficulties arise when the magical word "housing" is mentioned. Where will members of the new sororities live?

Fifteen percent of available housing space goes toward reserved space, which includes sororities and interest houses.

includes the 15 percent, is reviewed periodically and could be changed. But if the 15 percent figure is raised, there would be even less room in the dorms for independents.

live on campus in grace and safety?

Sororities should always be welcome at the 15 percent limit to accommodate the new sororities, it will unfairly displace

popularity. To meet women's increasing However, the master housing plan, which

A question arises: Why don't sororities choose to have their suites located off campus? Is it possibe that underneath all of this s the antiquated idea that women should

Penn State. But if the University must raise independent students — at a time when The space is not yet filled, so if more dorm contracts are at a premium.

# When inequality is a good thing

an ax — supposedly slipped into the second-floor guest bedroom of her home where her stepmother was making the bed. Lizzie struck the woman 19 times, slicing a five-inch hole in her skull. She let the body remain where it had fallen.

After ninety minutes of doing household chores, she greeted her father by telling him his wife had gone out for a sick call. She then swung the ax at his head 10 times, cracking a cheekbone and severing an eye in

. . . A little after midnight on August 9, 1969, Charles Manson and a group of his "Family" entered Sharon Tate's residence outside of Los Angeles. When they left several hours later, all five people in the house were

Although Manson was the focus of the publicity, two women were convicted for taking a substantial part in the murders. Twenty-one-year-old Susan Atkins recalled the stabbing of Tate that night with chilling

"It felt so good the first time I stabbed her, and when she screamed at me it did something to me, sent a rush through me, and I stabbed her again," Atkins told a Why, the cellmate asked, why did she and the others

We "wanted to do a crime that would shock the 'world, that the world would have to stand up and take notice," she replied.

We've come a long way, — or have we? For the past several years, the media, social scientists and women's groups have exploited FBI crime statistics to show that women are catching up with men in the commission of crime, especially serious, violent crime.



Zenac Hardons

Despite all the glorified gains stemming from woman's fight for equality, however, "Lizzie Bordens" and "Susan Atkins" are not growing in numbers. Fortunately, they will remain extreme exceptions to a fairly consistent rule - the arena of criminal violence is chiefly the domain of men.

Darrell J. Steffensmeier, associate professor of sociology at the University, wrote in a 1979 USA Today Renae Hardoby is an 11th-term prelaw major and

arrest statistics in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports. "American women are not catching up with males in the commission of violent, masculine, serious, or white-collar crimes," Steffensmeier wrote.

Two fallacies originate from the perversion of FBI data. The first fallacy contends that the proportion of females arrested for serious crimes (homicide, aggravated assault, larceny, etc.) has increased dramatically, and the increase has been greater among women

This fallacy creates an inaccurate vision of sudden swarms of women murderers viciously stalking their victims. While serious crimes increased, the shift is attributed to arrests for larceny and shoplifting, not mass murder and assaults.

The second fallacy perpetrates the false idea that as women become more involved in "male" activites and try to imitate the male role in society, they become more like men in crime, particularly masculine crime Masculine crime, according to Steffensmeier, includes those crimes involving the use of "physical strength, elements of coercion and confrontation with a victim

and/or specialized skills." Although a small increase for these types of crimes occurred from 1965 to 1976, the increases were almost identical for men and women. For both masculine and violent crimes (murder, aggravated assault, robbery, etc.), women have not gained any ground against men. If women are becoming more criminal at all, it is in the areas of traditional "feminine" crimes - shoplifting, bad check writing and credit card fraud. And women are not being arrested for professionally or

"white-collar" crime. One reason women are not catching up with men in crime is because the barriers have not been broken in legitimate occupations conducive to criminal activity - truck driver, dock worker and mechanic. Another reason for women's lag behind men is that in

occupationally related frauds typically thought of as

the criminal arena, traditional sex roles and sexist attitudes persist quite strongly. Steffensmeier concluded his article by suggesting that increases in female crime might be "welcome" to feminist groups because the shift would imply that women are more important criminals, and consequent-

But importance or worth should not be measured in terms of a negative talent — the ability to commit serious, sensational-type crimes. Instead, gains won by women in positive areas, such as employment and politics, and the fact that women stray from commission of serious crimes should receive more acclaim. Crime should be one battle women would willingly concede equality in.

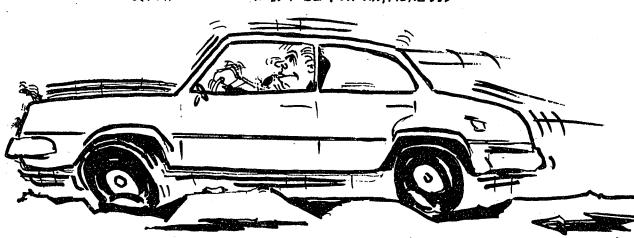
ly more important people.

article that the claims of adult females "gaining" on associate editorial editor of The Daily Collegian.

I DON'T SEE WHY WE HAVE TO PAY THIS X SON GAS TAX! TO REPAIR ROADS THEY SAY? THEY JUST



... DRIVING JUST WON'T BE FUN ANYMORE ...



## reader opinion

### In remembrance

On Dec. 9, at about 1 a.m., a heavily South African commandos invaded ians, many of whom were women and children (at last count, more than five women and two children were among those reported murdered by South African troops).

According to eyewitness reports in The New York Times and The Washington Post, many of those innocent victims were blown apart or cremated as they huddled terrified in their apartments, shot to death as they lay on the ground, or injured after jumping from or through windows as high as the second or third

South Africa claims that its troops were in pursuit of African National Congress guerrillas and that those killed, with the exception of a few innocent bystanders caught in the "cross fire," were ANC guerrillas. All eyewitness accounts, without exception, note that there were no "cross fires" and that those murdered were refugees registered with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In fact, the only known resistance to South Africa's barbaric onslaught appeared to take place at the residence of Mr. Mathabatha Sexwale and his wife Buni. They appeared to have fought back and escaped although the house was devastated

Lesotho's capital, Maseru, and mur-territory of at least six neighboring apartheid regime: Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and

have included letter bombs, car

This latest attack, however, appears to escalate this violence against civilians to a new level, in that the invaded state has no capacity whatsoever to defend its citizens and those unfortunate refugees that fled apartheid oppression in the land of their birth — South Africa (Lesotho has no standing army or defense force).

bombs and assassination

This invasion was so brutal that even South Africa's strongest attack ally, the United States, sharply denounced the South African attack, a denouncement which placed the United States' condemnation of South Africa with extreme condemnations voiced by Lesotho's Foreign Minister Charles Malapo, U.N. Sec. Gen. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the British government and Shridath Ramphal, the Lesotho Interior Ministry and the secretary general of the 41-nation commonwealth (among others).

We would hope that Americans are just as concerned about the lack of freedom and personal security in South Africa and Southern Africa in general as they are about such lost or 'non-existent" rights in Poland. We would hope that Americans would take the time to investigate the system of brutality, apartheid, that It should be noted that this is not the blacks and other non-whites are editors, 126 Carnegie, no later than first report, nor perhaps the most forced to endure in the South African Dec. 17.

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brutal, of South Africa's many unpro- Republics as well as the threat of a voked armed incursions against un- brutal death threatened by the Rearmed civilians. In the past year, public of South Africa to all those armed force of 100 helicopter-borne South African troops and hired mer- within or without its borders, who cenaries have invaded the sovereign dare challenge South Africa's brutal

about apartheid, the ANC and the Zambia. South Africa's atrocities regime that has so brutally murdered innocent citizens in Southern Africa (as well as South Africa) please attend the showing of "The Afrikaner Experience" and "Last Grave at Dimbaza," Dec. 20, S204 Henderson Human Development Building. AMANDLA! (Power to the people) A LUTA CONTINUA! (The strug-

> Daniel E. Georges-Abeyie, administration of justice professor James B. Stewart, director of the black studies program

Where do you fit in the MX missile debate? Do you think we should spend more on a weapon we don't need, or do you think we need to catch up to the Soviet Union militarily? Or should we work at eliminating war

Let us hear your opinions on one of the most crucial issues of our decade. On Tuesday, Dec. 21, The Daily Collegian will devote its Op-ed page to the MX missile auestion. Submit letters (two-pages typed) and forums (threeto-four pages typed) to the editorial

# the Collegian

**Phil Gutis** 

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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.

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University Dining Halls 8:30 um HUB Ballroon Film "Bread and Chocolate" 7 & 9 pm 112 Kern

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

8:00 pm 102 Kern

Schwab Auditorium

Paul Robeson Cultural

Maple Room (Human Devel.)

Kern Lobby

6:00 pm.

7:30 pm

Center

"Journey to the Center of the Friday, December 17 Craft Demonstration

\*Kern Classic film:

\*German Dinner

International Coffeehouse "KWANZAA -- An African

American Holiday" Saturday, December 18 Children's Christmas Party

1:00 pm Paul Robeson Cultural 7 & o pm 112 Kern \*France Cinema:

Glee Club Concert

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International Cultures Exhibit

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