The school board president was hospitalized after being attacked, the union president has been jailed and contract talks, which began a year for Attorney General LeRoy Zimmerago, have failed to produce man, said that office is reviewing the agreement on even one major issue. school board's request for an investi-Gov. Thornburgh's office said yes- gation of "general lawlessness" durterday the state's top mediator, ing the strike.

#### Utility asks to install electricity limiters

burgh to resume negotiations today.

But Thornburgh "has no unilateral

power" to send a fact-finder to the

school district, as requested by the

school board, James Wiggins, a

Also, Robert Gentzel, spokesman

spokesman for the governor, said.

refrigerator, furnace fan and electric

If the electricity rises above the

minimum, the power is disconnected

In defending the limiter, PECO

said the device could benefit custom-

"by reducing their use to an amount

PECO has maintained that the de-

vice, manufactured by a Michigan

Thirty-three power companies in 21

states already employ the limiter and

other utilities are performing test

Police said the damage is esti-

opened yesterday morning.

ers having difficulties with their bills

and a reset button is pushed.

lights, PECO said.

they can handle.'

HARRISBURG (AP) — A device tric meter and restricts household that would limit the flow of electricity use to "essential items" such as a to delinquent ratepayers is "humanitarian" because it provides an alternative to no service at all, Philadelphia Electric Co. said. The utility has petitioned the Public until the extra appliances are shut off Utility Commission to use the gadget. called a service limiter adapter, for a

pilot program. · PECO recently filed papers with the commission defending the proposal and answering questions that the PUC had posed about its application. Consumer advocates have charged that the service limiter may be unsafe and is just another method of harrassing those who cannot or do not

The limiter is attached to the elec-programs with it, PECO said.

New kind of drive-thru restaurant opens

SOMERSET, Somerset County (AP) — An angry Somerset woman gave new meaning to the phrase "drive-thru restaurant" when she plowed through the north wall of Wendy's Hamburgers after the manager refused to accept her check. "She got a little upset and decided to drive her truck through the store," Paul Barzenski, manager of the fastfood restaurant, said.

The customer, Cheryl Maul, 22, was arrested Tuesday about three miles from the eatery, police said. "It was pretty exciting," Barzenski said. "She took out a good bit of the mated at \$20,000, but Wendy's rewall, a fire door and a water fountain.

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#### nation news briefs

#### Calif. teachers continue traumatic strike | Hawaiian volcano spews lava again

VOLCANO, Hawaii (AP) - Ki- He said yesterday's activity was in lauea volcano on the island of Hawaii the same general area as Monday's erupted briefly again yesterday eruption, in which fountains of lava major eruptions Monday, officials

morning, at the same site as two shot 200 feet into the air. The eruption began at 11:23 a.m. and ended two minutes later, said Reggie Okamura, scientist in charge

of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park "There is a good possibility it might pop out again," Okamura said, meaning further activity could follow the

The 18-day trial was spiced with

#### Roxanne Pulitzer appeals divorce verdict

NEW YORK (AP) - Palimony year-old boys so far. lawyer Marvin Mitchelson has been Mrs. Pulitzer, 31, was awarded \$2. hired by Roxanne Pulitzer to try to 000 a month for up to two years in upset the divorce trial verdict in alimony and child support. She also which she lost custody of her sons and received jewels, a car and equity in most of her husband's fortune, a her husband's 73-toot yacht. spokesman said yesterday.

Observatory

Sy Presten also said that although sensational testimony involving cothe Dec. 28 court decision gave Mrs. caine abuse, extramarital affairs, Pulitzer "liberal visitation rights," incest, lesbianism, menage-a-trois millionaire Peter Pulitzer, 52, has sex and other facets of life attributed refused to let her see their twin 5. to the Pulitzers

#### Man with a reported 83 wives on trial

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — An ex- after they met at a local swap meet convict who once told authorities he She said he vanished with \$36,500 she had married 82 women around the received after he convinced her to world went on trial yesterday for sell her house. fraud and bigamy stemming from his 1981 marriage to an Arizona woman. Giovanni Vigliotto, 53, was charged with one count each of fraud and bigamy in connection with his Nov.

years ago Vigliotto said he had mar-18, 1981 marriage to Patricia A. Garried 82 women over a period of 20 years, most of them in the United Gardiner said she married Vigiliot- States but some in Argentina, Brazil, to following an eight-day courtship Hong Kong and Japan.

#### Kindness to wounded results in penalty

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who got a ticket for rescuing a fox Arizona Game and Fish Department, me change my morals." Tim Lane, 20, said he thought he

was saving a suffering animal when he spotted the fox in a trap near away, and Lane thought it would wind Apache Junction on Friday.

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — A young man Lane and his mother called the from a trap says, "They can't make the Arizona Humane Society, the Phoenix Zoo and the local Maricopa County animal shelter.

Vigliotto has pleaded innocent and

has denied allegations that he has

But authorities said more than six

wedded 83 women.

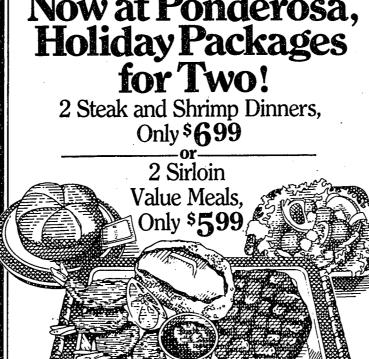
The animal shelter took the fox up in the zoo

#### British women knife skipper during trip

press said yesterday.

bring charges against the women.





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#### world news briefs

#### 30 dead in new violence in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador dro Hospital and an electrical plant (AP) — Thirty people were reported murdered in political violence ther attack. throughout the country yesterday, and about 50 leftist rebels attacked government troops in the eastern city

Meanwhile, two young sisters from a wealthy family were kidnapped from a posh San Salvador neighbor-

linked slayings around this country of 5 million people on Tuesday. The El Salvador Human Rights Committee estimates that at least 42,hood yesterday, a friend of the family 000 people have been killed in political violence since 1979, with 80 In Usutlan, 68 miles east of San percent of the victims civilians who Salvador, about 50 guerrillas staged were caught in crossfires or mur-

No casualties were reported in ei-

In one of the heaviest days of politi-

cal assassinations in months, judicial

authorities reported 30 politically

#### Gandhi may lose power in India election

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Prime Gandhi's popularity and political grip Minister Indira Gandhi and movie on this vast land of 700 million people hero-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao battled for control of Andhra Pradesh state vesterday in legislative assembly elections that drew more than 33 million voters to the polls in three states.

Six people died and more than 77 🐔 were injured in election-related vio-

lence, the United News of India re-The elections were seen as a test of

#### Indira Gandhi Danish ships defy fishing restrictions

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) - Meanwhile, Danish politician Kent Danish ships trawling for fish in Kirk said he was more than halfway restricted North Sea zones reported to a zone near Newcastle, England their first contacts with British in- where he plans to pursue schools of spection ships yesterday. None of the sprat, even if he enters Britain's 12-Danish vessels was boarded. Skipper Thorvald Boersemose said Kirk said he planned to risk a \$81,

over ship-to-shore radio that his tra- 000 fine to test the legitimacy of wler and eight others had had con- Britain's coastal restrictions. tacts with British inspection ships in Britain upheld the territorial limit the restricted area east of the Shet- past its expiration date of Jan. 1 after

# Denmark rejected a fishing accord.

LONDON (AP) — Defending them- The British tabloid said skipper selves against rape and murder, two Hans Nagel died while the yacht Pan British women knifed to death the Tau was on a 28-day voyage across German captain of a yacht on a the Atlantic from the Canary Islands voyage across the Atlantic and threw to the Caribbean. West German pohis body into the sea, the Daily Ex- lice have not yet decided whether to







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# opinions

Flagrant abuse With their combined salaries, a simultaneous attacks on the San Pe- dered by rightist "death squads." successful husband and wife law-\$100,000 a year. They probably have a pretty nice house in the

> keep up with the Joneses. But they couldn't seem to find the cash to pay one important debt. When they were students, both of them took out student loans from the federal government. Both of them managed to "forget" to pay it back.

editorial opinion

That's a flagrant abuse of the financial aid system. In an effort to eliminate this type of abuse, the federal government is attempting to corral individuals who have not paid back their loans.

One of the government's easier targets are its own employees. Federal employees who have not paid back their student loans can expect 15 percent of their paychecks to be withheld by the gov-A total of 46,860 current or for-

mer government employees owe \$68 million of student loan funds. In all. 800,000 ex-students have defaulted on \$1.1 billion in loans. A billion dollars is a lot of money

missing from anyone's pocket. But what's worse, it's revenue the government can't lend to current stu-

In December, the government decided to go after the defaulters yer team are making more than and the U.S. Department of Education mailed letters telling them to work out a repayment schedule suburbs. They probably drink cog- within 60 days. nac every night. They probably

> up a payment schedule, then in 60 more days they will see deductions in their paychecks. The state government is following the path blazed by its big broth-

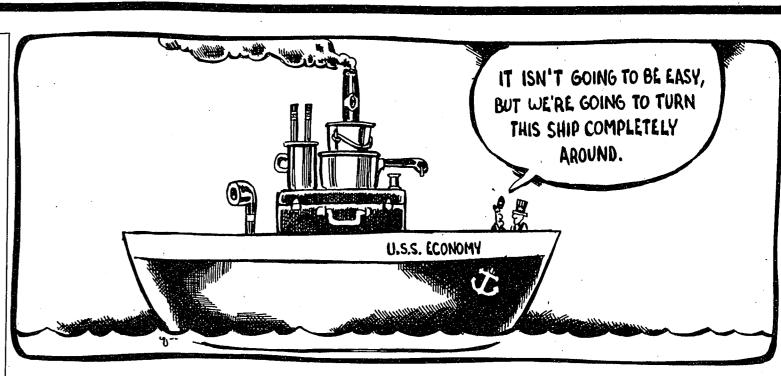
If the errant defaulters do not set

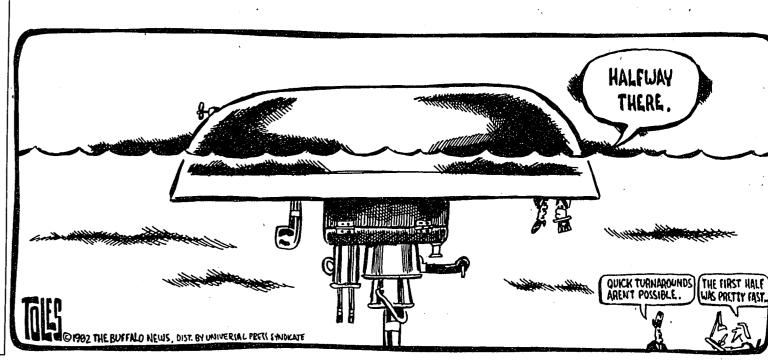
The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency knows of more than 1,100 state employees who owe more than \$2.3 million in

student loans. Last month, Gov. Dick Thornburgh signed a law permitting the withholding of wages from any state employee who has defaulted

on a loan. With federal and state funding to higher education growing scarce, the money collected from the defaulters could help students complete their educations. A contract is a contract and students should not be able to borrow money from the

government and then not repay it. But government employees make up only about 6 percent of those who have not repaid their loans. Collecting their money won't make a dent in the default rate, unless the government goes after other loan deadbeats as well.





# reader opinion / the MX missile

#### Too costly

Fears of growing Soviet strength has spurred President Reagan to strengthen America's defenses. Presently, the United States has approxiplaced in missiles, bombers and submarines. The Soviet Union has apwarheads pack a bigger punch with a total megatonnage of 9,000 versus 3,-

The MX missile is the president's means of defense to close the gap of the Soviets lead in total megatonnage. Should the MX missile be deployed in the midst of economic roubles? Are budget deficits acceptable to the American people where they have to continually fund a huge

A strong defense is the imperative to counter any Soviet aggression, but shouldn't other programs besides the The MX missile program is an extremely costly project. The first five missiles cost nearly \$1 billion.

About 100 missiles are on the agenda.

Why not have a scaled down version

of the MX missile and cut some of the first strike that we must build a new look like it will improve. Before base housed by the MX? Can't the Americans invest billions of dollars

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nuclear spearhead instead of the MX? The United States has a slight lead in the number of missiles, but the Soviets have greater megatonnage on our existing nuclear warheads to match the Soviets?

rine force or the bomber force as our

scaled down so that the United States can cope with social security prob unemployment and revenues, yet not jeopardize the national securi-Why not cut out 25 missiles and use that five billion to repair the nations' highways instead of taxing the people? Not only would the American people have to pay for the MX but they would also have to be burdened with taxes if the MX is de-

One way of trying to improve the economic conditions would be disarmament of the superpowers. The nations would then be able to channel funds into social programs. Have not the crys of millions of people pursuing peace been heard by all leaders? admire President Reagan's concern for a strong defense, but the state of the economy doesn't seem as critically vulnerable to the Soviet strong as it once was and it doesn't

tions which I have previously written are ones which come to my mind. made. The United States should not make a hasty decision concerning Patrick Mulderig, 9th-aerospace en-

into the defense budget, they should

be informed of alternatives. Ques-

We're all No. 1

football. We're No. 1 in many many things because we are Pen In what other ways is Penn Stat No. 1? How great is Penn State in erms of its research, its faculty, its tellectual climate? Just how proud are Penn Stater

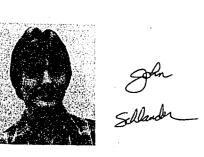
their school? What does Penn State mean to you? The Daily Collegian wants know. On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the Collegian will devote its Op-ed page and programs. Letters (two-three pages typed) or forums (four page Collegian office by Sunday, Jan. 8,

# How much theory is pure bunk?

contemporaries, or of medieval physicians using leeches to suck off bad blood, I wonder how those people could have been so stupid. There have been many of these stupid people throughout history, many

Aristotle, for example, knew an awful lot about science - but what he did not know, he simply made up. That seems to be the usual case throughout history. People — scientists included — often fall for intuitively strong theories even if no evidence exists The ancient Greeks and Romans are prime exam-

ples. They believed in deities responsible for everything from the rising of the sun to the shining of the stars. They had answers for absolutely everything. Many of history's absurd ideas, however, resulted from sensible - but incomplete - reasoning and observation. In Columbus's day, it was reasonable to think the world was flat. Considering the common wisdom of the day, it would have been silly to think the world is spherical. If I had lived then, I probably would



have thought old Chris was bonkers.

And that makes me wonder about our current wisdom. How much of what we believe is pure bunk? What things that we now dismiss as bunk will someday be found true? We have home computers and atom splitters and integrated circuits, but in the grand scheme of

things, how significant is our knowledge? I have a recurring vision of a bunch of 22nd century scholars laughing at 20th century technology. They'll read about heart disease and wonder why we invested millions of research dollars on coronary bypass, artificial hearts and artery cleaning, but practically nothing on the dietary causes of heart attacks. As they watch holograms - projected three dimen-

television. They will get a chuckle out of things we cannot even begin to predict. By the same token, some 20th century researchers are already laughing at 20th century fools, because

sional images - perform plays in their living room,

they'll laugh about the 20th century's fascination with

The Daily Collegian

Thursday, Jan. 6

For example, many people think that subliminal persuasion is a powerful tool that can influence a person to buy a Coke he did not really want or to be. sexually aroused by the word "sex" deftly formed by strands of Farrah Fawcett's hair. Such a theory has a strong intuitive appeal - it sounds intriguing. It is

However, not one shred of solid evidence supports the ontention that subliminal appeals are effective. In fact, the evidence shows that such sub-threshhold messages are largely useless. Certainly, they can hope to be no more effective than ordinary, consciouslyper

Unfortunately, many other scientific controversies have no preponderance of evidence on one side. On Phil Donahue's show the other day, the controversy over exercise was explored

Old fashioned exercise supporter Bonnie Pruden and Nautilus weight resistance propounder Arthur Jones hacked away at a guy demonstrating a no-effort exercise machine

The machine, if it really works, is quite revolutionary. A person merely lies down and lets the machine electrically stimulate muscle growth. A volunteer from Donahue's audience had his legs wrapped with what looked like huge blood pressure cuffs, which were connected to a control gadget. He said he felt his leg muscles being worked, or tingled or something. By the end of the show, I didn't know who to believe All their theories sounded pretty good, but they can't all be right. I must admit that the no-effort machine has a great magic appeal that is easy to fall for. If the machine does work, people soon will be laughing at body builders who used to slave away on weight machines. If the machine doesn't work, people

will laugh at the fools who wanted to get something for In either case, there will be a lot of laughing going on I don't know about you, but I have a strong urge not to be laughed at by future generations. I don't want some kid from the class of 2112 reading about how stupid 20th century people were.

So I'm writing this column in the interest of posterity Maybe that 2112 kid will find a copy of this on a decaying microfilm reel in the ruins of Pattee and wil see that I knew we believed many stupid things and were fascinated by simplistic technology. And then maybe he will realize that the unknown will always outstrip the known.

John Schlander is an 8th-term journalism major and a member of The Daily Collegian Board of Opinion.

# the Collegian

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