

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Monday, July 25

editorial opinion

Only the uniforms changing in Poland

For the people of Poland, Friday's end to 18 months of military rule signified a long-awaited token of freedom restored. Unfortunately, a token is all the lifting of martial law seems to be.

Since August 1980, when the birth of the independent trade union, Solidarity, captured the attention of Communist bloc and free nations around the world, the Polish people have been symbols of courage and spirit. Despite the imposition of martial law and all its awful trappings, the people of Poland have maintained their will to fight for freedom.

However, this same fortune of will has not been without cost.

The Poles have seen their leaders — among them former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa — stripped of official power and imprisoned. Because of economic sanctions imposed on their country by the United States and other Western nations protesting martial law, they have seen food and fuel prices increase by as much as 400 percent. They have waited long hours in food lines, prayed long hours in their churches. Their roads, hospitals, schools and police forces have been taken over by the Soviet-trained military.

But through it all, the Poles have maintained a spirit that 18 months into martial law allowed them to still raise their hands in the air in V-for-victory signs with Pope John Paul II.

And while martial law may be officially over, the Poles yet have to hurdle many obstacles on what has proved to be a painful and frustrating road to liberty. As some have described it, the police have simply changed clothes in Poland.

Last Wednesday, Poland's parliament, the Sejm, granted the government the power to declare a state of emergency, thus allowing for a civil crackdown on any future unrest. The Sejm has also prolonged legal restrictions on citizen freedom for a 2½ year transition period to "full normalization."

Among the tools with which the government hopes to avert any future challenges to its rule is a bill that limits the right of workers to change jobs, weakens the scope of self-management in Polish factories, deletes features of Poland's economic reform and augments political controls over

the nation's universities and professional associations.

The bill the Sejm passed was less repressive than the one originally proposed, which would have made participation in a banned organization such as Solidarity punishable by up to three years in jail and which would have toughened the country's censorship law. But these deletions from the bill have merely been shelved for separate consideration sometime in the future.

And even the amnesty decree — which promises immediate freedom for all women and minors sentenced for political offenses — still excludes some top Solidarity leaders, as well as members of a dissident group known as the Committee for Social Self-Defense, which worked closely with the Solidarity leadership.

The amnesty decree also carries with it a caveat — anyone who repeats a similar political offense in the next 2½ years will be forced to live out the term that was levied for his alleged original offenses.

Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski called the amnesty decree "yet another proof of good will." Former Solidarity leader Walesa called it "meaningless." Regarding all the conditions of the lifting of martial law in Poland, President Ronald Reagan, is fostering a "wait-and-see" attitude.

If the changes in Poland are more than just "cosmetic," Reagan said, he will consider lifting the economic sanctions that were levied in December 1981.

Like many of the Poles themselves, Reagan is wary that Poland's troubles have not disappeared, but have merely changed their identities.

Some Western analysts have speculated that martial law was lifted in Poland for purely economic reasons — Poland's economy appears to be withering under the weight of the sanctions.

And thus it seems necessary that the sanctions be continued, for now at least. For while the people of Poland would probably benefit materially by their halt, their continuance seems a more important expression of support.

By continuing the sanctions, the United States could help ensure that the changes in Poland are more than just cosmetic. Because sadly, economics seem to talk louder than humanitarianism.

More than music in Central Park

Last Thursday evening, music lovers who gathered in New York City's Central Park to attend a free Diana Ross concert were forced to head for cover by a thunderstorm. Ross agreed to sing again the next night.

On Friday night after the concert, people were forced again to fend for themselves, but this time no raindrops fell — concertgoers and others were attacked by youths grabbing for gold necklaces, purses and anything else they could steal.

By the time the city's streets were quiet, 41 people had been injured — 16 of whom were taken to hospitals — and about 80 people had been arrested, mostly for robbery, assault and narcotics violations.

Included in the violence was an incident in which about 15 teenagers jumped onto the terrace of the Tavern on the Green, a restaurant on the western edge of Central Park, and tipped tables, stole purses and assaulted patrons.

Also, one 18 year old was shot and injured by Transit Authority detective when he pulled a knife on the detective's partner.

But mostly, the youths chased, attacked and tried to steal from those unlucky enough to be near them. About 1,200 police officers were necessary to diffuse the violence, which spread to areas beyond Central Park.

Worse news than the rampage itself, an assistant police chief told The New York Times that the violence was not an isolated incident — following rock concerts, kids often try to steal from people, he said.

Friday's street violence was also not an isolated incident in the nation's cities; it was merely a condensed example of a problem that has spread even beyond large cities like New York and Los Angeles.

It's unfortunate — and frightening — that New York City's youths are so bored or malicious that they would create havoc after concerts that they and others could have enjoyed without incident.

Thursday's concertgoers needed only umbrellas to protect themselves from the rainstorm. Unfortunately, they needed more than that to protect themselves from Friday's senseless storm of violence.



the Collegian

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Judith Smith
Business Manager
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Taking a chance on the lottery

It is no secret that state revenues have been shrinking in recent months. But despite the money shortages brought on by President Ronald Reagan's aversion to spending and voters' aversion to taxes, our states still require dollars to maintain existing programs. To solve this quandary, more and more state officials are looking at state-run lotteries. At present, 24 states are considering instituting their own games of chance. They take their cue from the 17 states, and the District of Columbia that currently run lotteries — lotteries that have brought in \$4 billion in revenues and represent, nationwide, the fastest growing source of state revenue.

and churches. Nonetheless, the fact is that virtually everyone plays these games, not for charity's sake, but to win and to win something for nothing. Does it matter if the state (you and I) gives millions of people false hopes while it takes their money? Pennsylvania and Ohio complicate this debate by earmarking state profits from their lotteries. Pennsylvania's profits go to assisting the elderly and the federal government to fund education. By doing this, both states try to let the players know exactly where their money is going. And by having only one designated and highly-deserving recipient of the funds, they give the player an aura of a charity.

To supporters, the lottery is seen as a fun and painless way of raising needed money. Opponents, on the other hand, disagree and live in constant fear of what the federal government would do with that idea. Here are a few "commercials" for federally-run lotteries that opponents have nightmares about: "Remember Americans to correctly fill out all of your federal income tax forms this year to be eligible for the 'Great IRS Giveaway!' All entries must be post-marked by midnight April 15 and all taxes must be correctly paid. Then, be watching your television set on June 1 when President Reagan will draw the winning social security number. First prize is \$1 million in freshly printed cash and is completely tax free! So don't delay. Call H&R Block and fill out your 1984 today!"

Well, I know where I would be on June 1. "Instantly, you and your immediate family will become naturalized citizens of the United States of America. Just show your winning card to the Border Patrol and they'll let you and your family pass freely. Just think, no more swimming, the Rio Grande, no more humiliating deportations. Now, you'll be able to legally vote, hold mental jobs and collect welfare."

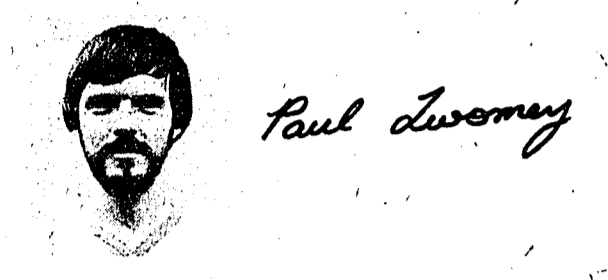
As you can see, lotteries are wondrous devices for raising revenues and lowering taxes — even if they are terribly inefficient. Lotteries use 60 cents of every dollar to pay prizes and administrative costs compared to only one cent in order to collect taxes.

But for the smart citizen, lotteries are financial salvation — if you hate to pay taxes and you play the odds by not playing the lottery.

Andy Hasselbring is a University graduate student in history and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

In new role Syria hinders Middle East peace

If there was a victor during the recent Middle East tour of Secretary of State George P. Shultz, it was President Hafez al-Assad of Syria. The tour, which was an attempt to make some progress toward a comprehensive agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, was fruitless. This was the nature of Assad's victory.



Shultz's tour is the most recent illustration of the dominant position Syria has now assumed in the diplomacy of the Middle East. Syria now stands as the embodiment of radical Arab sentiment.

Before the Camp David accord, Syria was the leading Arab state, but with the recognition of Israel by Egypt, a power vacuum arose. Several regimes, including those in charge of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Libya, Iraq and Iran, vied for leadership. But with the onset of the Iraq-Iran war and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, it has been Syria that has come out on top.

Consequently, Assad now enjoys the prestige on the international stage that has been his goal for most of his political career.

To understand Assad's new position, one must understand the traditional view of the conflict with Israel. Radical Arab nationalism has its roots in the 19th century, when it began as a reaction against the economic and political control of most of the Middle East by Western imperialist powers.

Arab nationalists have dreamt for more than a century of a unified Arab nation where widespread economic and social advancement would be possible. But any encroachment upon the Arab homelands by an imperialist power would make such a unified Arab nation impossible — therein lies the source of Arab nationalist hostility toward Israel.

Radical Arab nationalism decries Israel as imperialistic, both as a representative of Western imperialism and as a product of Zionist expansionism. The validity of such claims is immaterial. What matters is that this radical nationalism has been the

motivating force behind a broad cross-section of the Arab population for most of this century. Since the rise of independent Arab states, the world has witnessed a contest between various Arab leaders to gain control over this powerful motivating force. In the 1950s Gamal Abdel Nasser, former president of Egypt, swept to the fore as leader of Arab nationalism. He, in turn, was succeeded by Anwar Sadat.

Now, Syrian president Assad has gained the ascendancy. Having attained his goal, Assad is not willing to disillusion radical Arab nationalist sentiment by negotiating, directly or indirectly, with Israel. Hence his refusal to agree to any Syrian troop withdrawals from Lebanon.

Assad's strong anti-Israel stance extends to other Arabs who have considered negotiations with Israel. Damascus denounced Egypt, for its part in the Camp David accord, as a traitor to the Arab cause. More recently, Syria has been putting pressure on the fragile Lebanese Government not to agree to anything with Israel.

Assad was angered by the security agreement reached in May between Israel and Lebanon. His present policy seems to be to make the May agreement impotent.

Israel promised to withdraw its forces from Lebanon only on the condition that Syria and the PLO did the same. With 40,000 Syrian and PLO troops in Lebanon, Assad's intransigent means that Lebanon faces a definite partition between Israel and Syria, with the Lebanese Government merely exercising control over Beirut.

The continued Syrian presence also makes a direct clash between Syrian and Israeli forces in the Bekaa valley more likely.

Assad's radical stance has also had a divisive effect upon the PLO. Since the destruction of most of the PLO armed forces by Israel, moderate PLO leaders, especially Yasir Arafat, have been considering negotiations with the United States and Israel for a Palestinian homeland.

Two months ago, however, a rebel faction based in the PLO Damascus headquarters, claimed that Arafat had abandoned the Palestinian cause by talking negotiations. The result has been fighting between the two factions.

Arafat squarely places the blame for the split in his guerrilla group upon Assad. He believes that Assad, like Nasser in the 1950s, is using the Palestinians as political pawns. Moderate PLO leaders perceive the rebellion as an attempt by Syria to ensure that the

Palestinians will not enter into negotiations with Israel. Saudi Arabia and Algeria are both concerned about Syria's role in the PLO unrest. Both have sent envoys to Damascus in the past two weeks in attempts to mediate the dispute.

But just as he has resisted Saudi calls for Syrian negotiations with Lebanon about troop withdrawals, Assad has, so far, not responded to the Saudi and Algerian efforts.

President Assad now holds the dominant position in the delicate power balance of the Middle East. His decisions will determine the success of the Reagan Administration's two major Middle East diplomatic initiatives — a call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon and a call for negotiations on the Palestinian question.

The more Assad stalls these initiatives, the more he undercuts American prestige in the Middle East and

pleases radical Arab nationalist sentiment. But if he goes too far, the results may be disastrous.

An obstructionist Syria may bring a new approach from an administration preparing for a possible Reagan re-election campaign. The White House may decide to cut its losses, re-affirm its ties with Israel and blame the Syrians, who are heavily armed by the Soviet Union, for the lack of progress in the Middle East.

If the present negotiations were thus to fail, the scene would be set for a new Israeli-Syrian war. As the Israelis showed the Lebanese and the PLO in June 1982, such a conflict could be devastating for Syria.

Paul Twomey is a University graduate student in international relations and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.



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Monday: **Mischief**
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Tuesday: **P.J. and the Hurricanes**
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Wednesday: **Cartoon**

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
Monday, July 25
P.S. Aikido Club workout, 7 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.
Students for Reproductive Rights meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 227 HUB.
Tuesday, July 26
GSA Explazagana film, Cool Hand Luke, dusk, Fisher Plaza; free outdoor concert, The Seen, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Plaza.
P.S. Science Fiction Society meeting, 7 p.m., Room 317 Boucke.
Wednesday, July 27
P.S. Aikido Club workout, 7 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.
Nittany Grotto of the NSS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 265 Willard.
P.S. Stamp Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 207 Sackett.

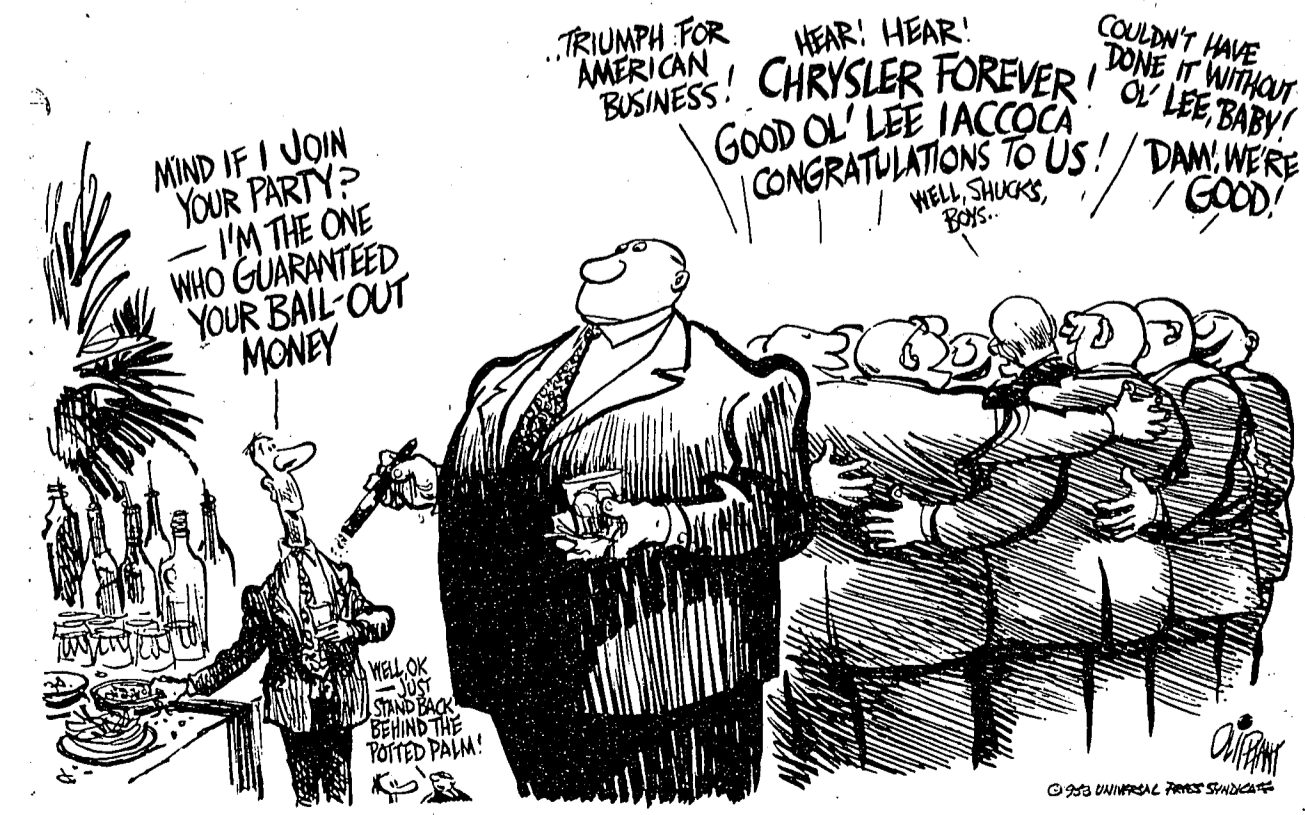
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