

editorial opinion

When house slippers take on tanks

It is a day to reflect on the pursuit of freedom throughout the world.

Today marks the third anniversary of the founding of Solidarity — the first free union formed in the Soviet bloc.

In December 1981, the Polish government imposed martial law in an effort to thwart the growth of the then infant Solidarity movement. But the movement swelled nevertheless, capturing the respect and admiration of the western world. And Poles themselves cheered Lech Walesa, Solidarity's leader, as a true champion of human rights.

On July 22 of this year, martial law was revoked but replaced by new laws limiting dissent.

Today, Solidarity exists only in an underground movement and in the hearts of a vast majority of Poles because the current "non-martial law" government has upheld the ban on Solidarity.

Yesterday Walesa bowed to the government's insistence that he postpone an anniversary rally planned for today at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity. Instead he will lay a wreath at a monument to workers near the shipyard gates. However, underground Solidarity leaders are calling for marches and a rush-hour boycott of public transportation that would force tens of thousands of Poles into the streets.

IRS plans to play Big Brother

The technology that has made junk mail profitable could bring some Americans other undesirable mail — notification that the Internal Revenue Service is investigating them.

The private marketing companies that enable businesses to send Americans catalogs for tulip bulbs, fishing gear and novelty items by providing income estimates of the nation's families may soon make it possible for the IRS to determine what families may have failed to pay their income tax.

From telephone books, vehicle registration and Census Bureau information, the companies gather data that, when processed by a computer, results in income estimates for the nation's families. Once the IRS has the estimates, it plans to match them against a computerized list of all taxpayers and investigate those suspected of not paying taxes. If the process succeeds in locating tax evaders, the IRS plans to expand into identifying those who may not be paying enough taxes.

The IRS is concerned about the growing number of Americans who do not pay in-

come tax. And rightly so, because Americans must be willing to pay for the social and defense programs they receive.

But the implications of the new computer method for tracking down tax evaders are frightening.

The technology that is enabling people to know more about the world is also enabling the world to know more about them — whether they like it or not.

Infringements against the rights of privacy do not occur in revolutions; they occur in small, barely recognizable steps. Ten years ago, the procedures the IRS uses today would have seemed impossible or too expensive. In 10 years, the computer systems used by the marketing companies today will pale when compared to methods people will use to obtain information.

The inevitable comparisons to George Orwell's book "1984" may seem trite, but with the date just four months away, one must wonder if the implications of experiments like the one the IRS plans to begin are "double plus ungood."

So the government is ill at ease. Army, police and government officials said security forces would move to halt demonstrations, to ensure peace.

But Walesa, an electrician at the shipyard, plans only to give a speech today "if a like-minded group of people gathers."

And, in a weekly Vienna magazine, he said he doubted any major demonstrations will occur.

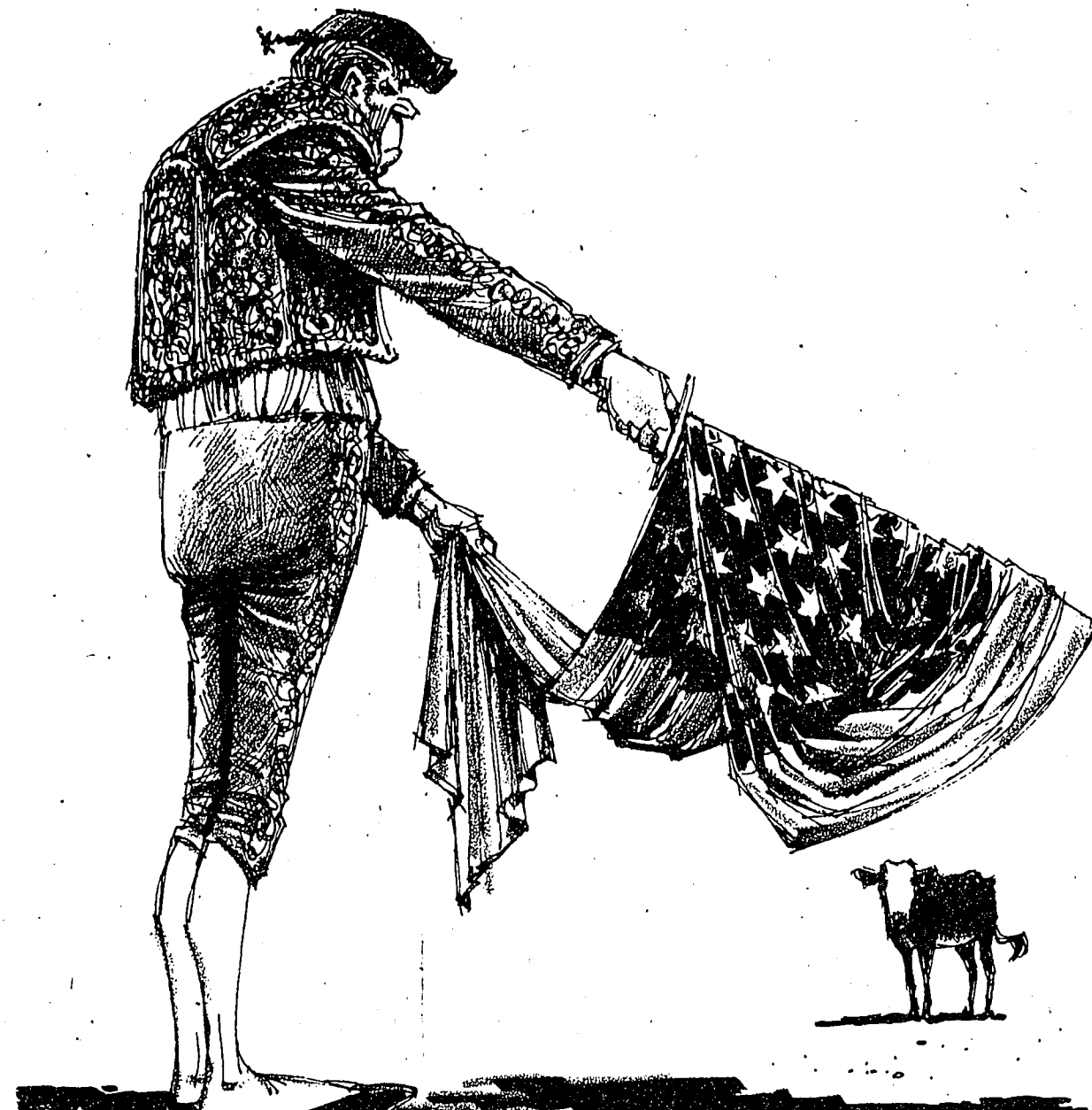
"I don't believe that the people will take to the streets," Walesa said. "Not because they don't support us, but because they know that you don't have a chance with house slippers against tanks."

"There will certainly be some demonstrations, but not too many... This form of struggle is not appropriate right now."

So why is the government so afraid? Government leaders like Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski claim that Walesa and his supporters are injurious to Poland.

But many in the western world would like to believe that the fears of the Polish government reaffirm the belief that one idea — one proud idea supported by freedom-loving people — will triumph over an armed, oppressive government.

And perhaps this third anniversary of the birth of Solidarity — whose vital signs are still strong — will cause a resurgence in the Poles' pursuit of a more tangible form of Solidarity.



SHOWING THE FLAG IN CENTRAL AMERICA

reader opinion

More to life

Since when is providing a sound basis for the equality between men and women? Holly Wilson in her forum, "Women must prudently re-think roles," seems to think that prudence and gender differences make all the difference in the world. Isn't the fallacy of suppressed evidence being used here to say that women refuse to admit their differences from men but to their own detriment? Who are these women? Ms. Wilson says that "to enter into any contractual relationship means compromising one's natural rights," but isn't that what marriage is all about? We all give up a little for one another. I would like to think that

people who start a life together do so willingly and without reservations. Being a newlywed myself, I happen to enjoy doing housework and working while also going to school part time. I feel good about helping with the bills instead of sitting at home waiting for the bacon (so to speak) to be brought to me.

Ms. Wilson speaks of women like they should all stay home and make babies. Well, there's more to life than that. Hasn't she heard the common statement, "You've come a long way, baby!" Women want to play a part in society. We are intelligent, responsible people who have been in the dark for too long.

For a long time it was thought — and still is to a certain extent — that a woman couldn't do a man's so-called

"job." I will agree that there are some women who would not be able to handle the physical part of this, but certainly we can handle the emotional task of making decisions.

In this day and age I find that there are quite a few husbands/fathers out there who lend a helping hand to the working wife/mother. And why shouldn't they? Who set down the law that said that women must do all the housework?

I'll conclude this letter by saying that a woman can be successful in both her home life and the job — with a little help from her hubby!

Cathy Franz, sophomore-business administration
Aug. 12

Drinking arrest petty

Department store wine-tasting no place for LCB

As college-age students in Pennsylvania, many of us are quite aware of that magical age of 21 when we are legally allowed to drink.

Because the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board tends to make it difficult on us undergrads, most of us do not "bar-hop" until we are legal. There are always the lucky few, however, who can pass for 21-year-olds and get into many bars although they are not yet of age.



Carol Frank

In my hometown, this is usually the rule rather than the exception. But this summer things changed. Many teenagers were injured or killed in auto accidents, and investigations showed evidence of underage drinking. Concerned parents and community leaders started questioning the effectiveness of the LCB.

And suddenly the issue of underage drinking in northeastern Pennsylvania became a heated one. Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, chairman of the state Senate law and justice committee, announced that he would hold a public hearing on the issue in early July. The LCB began to frequently raid bars to try to escape some of the bad publicity it had received.

Somehow, I got caught up in this controversy. One afternoon in early July I was arrested for underage drinking. If mine had been the typical case of being drunk at a bar late on a Saturday night, I may not have

been so outraged. But that's not quite how it happened.

I was about to leave early from work when a co-worker suggested I go with her to the local department store that had just been licensed to have a state store in it. She wanted to buy some liquor, so we went to the store and made our purchase.

The manager knew my friend and came over to talk to us. He asked us if we had gone to the wine-and-cheese-tasting the store was holding outside. We walked to the wine and cheese display and I was handed a small glass full of wine.

I couldn't have been there for longer than five minutes when a man came up and asked to see my identification. The next thing I knew I was being dragged to a table and questioned. I didn't realize I was under arrest until I asked the officer if I could leave.

"No, you can't leave, you are under arrest for underage drinking," the officer said. "You face a fine of up to \$300 plus \$46 in court costs."

I was stunned. The only thing I could think of was to call home. The officer tried to explain the situation to my father, who obviously was giving him a difficult time. The officer hung up and continued to question me.

"How many times have you been in this establishment without a parent or guardian?" he asked.

I looked at him, confused. "This is a department store," I said. "I've been coming here by myself since I was 10."

"Oh, not applicable," he said.

Nothing was making sense to me. I couldn't understand what I had done wrong. I was being treated like a common criminal for taking a sip of wine. Although I knew I broke the law, I couldn't help feeling like the innocent victim.

There was no reason for me to be arrested for such a petty thing. My parents were

equally outraged, and when they called the department store to complain, the store manager claimed he had no idea that the incident had taken place.

Fortunately, my next door neighbor, a lawyer, had advised me to plead not guilty. I was afraid to because I had, after all, broken the law.

My parents and friends insisted that I had not. They believed that this whole ordeal was an example of injustice and that I should fight for my rights.

They were right. I decided. I was not going to let some over-zealous LCB agent take advantage of me. I was going to stand up for what I believed in.

At my hearing three weeks later, I pleaded not guilty. The judge threw the case out of court, telling the arresting officer that arresting me for consuming such a small amount of alcohol was absurd.

Unfortunately for me, the LCB did get the last laugh because I did have to pay lawyer fees for the incident.

I am not actually against the state LCB and the drinking laws. I am simply upset at the pettiness of my arrest. The only conclusion I can draw from this incident is that the officers were trying to chalk up another arrest on their own scoreboards rather than to enforce laws that protect citizens.

In my case, I was not committing an actual crime. I had not consumed enough alcohol to endanger myself or others. I was arrested to satisfy some officer's record. If that is an example of how our LCB works, then we have a serious problem. Laws must be enforced to protect citizens from law-breakers, not LCB agents from investigation boards.

Carol Frank is a junior majoring in political science and a columnist for the Daily Collegian. Her column appears on alternate Wednesdays.

reader opinion

Woman's role

I would like to take issue with Holly Wilson and her opinion that it "is with reluctance, out of a concern for prudence, that a woman enters into the professional sphere."

Ms. Wilson goes on to say in her forum, "Women must prudently rethink roles," that society forces women in this direction, causing a conflict between what is a natural tendency and what is socially rewarded.

Where has she been for the past 30 years? A woman's "natural tendencies," referred to so often by Holly Wilson, are to achieve the best for her home and family.

A look at history will tell you that she will do what she has to in the best way possible in order to achieve her goals. Today's woman is no different from that of 100 or 200 years ago — she wants for her family. Years ago, a family of four could survive on just one income. But today, the economy requires two incomes to survive. So women, seeing a need, are filling a gap.

A study of the man of the current "family unit" will show a man much different from his predecessor. He is more sensitive, more tolerant, more active in child-rearing and housekeeping, and less aggressive than his father or grandfather. Left alone, men would not have changed in this fashion. It is the pressure of the woman's having to leave the home and provide the second income that has

brought about changes.

It is, therefore, buffoonery to state that the "time-honored relationship is being rejected out of hand and is dangerous." The man is treated as an equal in the home and the woman should be treated as an equal in the job marketplace. Her skills are equal to her partner's and her pay should also be equal.

If contributors to the Collegian are paid for their articles, I certainly hope Ms. Wilson was paid as much as a man would have been if he had written this article!

W. David Hurst, junior-journalism
July 25



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