

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1983

## editorial opinion

### Convicting cooperation

Blasting Def Leppard at 3 a.m. is one thing. Playing Sammy Davis Jr.'s "The Candy Man" before 11 p.m. is another.

Yet apparently to some State College officials, they are the same. On Oct. 20, two State College Municipal Police officers drove past Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, 406 Fairmount Ave., in an unmarked police car, noted that the fraternity was playing music through an open door, and at 10:59 p.m., took a noise level reading, which indicated that the strains of "The Candy Man" were exceeding the 60-decibel limit by 10 decibels.

Last Friday, District Magistrate Clifford H. Yorks found the fraternity guilty of violating the noise ordinance and fined it \$25 for violating the ordinance and \$25 for court costs.

The fraternity was not fined the \$78.50 fee usually issued to first-time offenders, but the fact that it was fined at all is still disturbing.

For the fraternity has this strange agreement with its neighbors — in which the neighbors have only to pick up their telephones and complain once when the fraternity is making too much noise and the noise will be lowered — and it's based on a strange concept — courtesy. But strange as such an arrangement may seem to some, it has worked in the past.

However, on the evening of Oct. 20, the fraternity received no complaints and so the members assumed that all was in order.

And it probably would have been had the police not decided to drop by.

All that the fraternity members were doing was practicing a routine for the Homecoming parade. No wild screaming, no wild music, no wild parties on the front lawn — just Sammy Davis Jr.

Two neighbors testified at Friday's hearing in support of the fraternity, but to no avail. No one complained. Oct. 20 and no one complained — save the police officers — at Friday's hearing. But the fraternity was fined nonetheless.

A lot of campaign rhetoric has circulated throughout the borough in the past several weeks about solutions to the noise problem in State College. Words like "cooperation," "good neighborliness" and "understanding" have surfaced frequently.

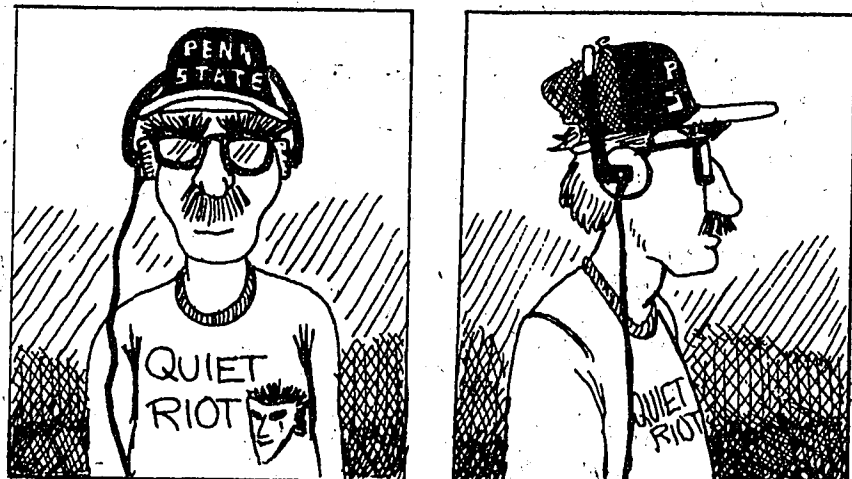
However, in cases like these, it seems they are only words.

For when students such as the residents of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity come forward halfway in compromise, they find the borough still hanging back from the center.

This incident involving Phi Kappa Tau casts doubt on the future of compromise as a viable solution to the noise problem in the borough. And that's sad. Because it is obvious that there are some State College residents willing to compromise. And it is obvious that there are some students who are willing to compromise.

Unfortunately, it is also obvious that too many municipal officials have not yet been schooled in the art.

## WANTED BY THE STATE COLLEGE POLICE



## X. S. DeCibel

OCCUPATION: PENN STATE STUDENT  
AGE: 18-21  
WANTED BY THE STATE COLLEGE POLICE FOR VIOLATION OF THE STATE COLLEGE NOISE ORDINANCE.  
CONSIDERED EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!

## the daily Collegian

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1983  
Suzanne M. Cassidy  
Editor

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Judith Smith  
Business Manager

About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Students of The Pennsylvania State University write and edit both papers and solicit advertising material for them. The Daily Collegian is published Monday, Thursday and Friday during the summer, and distributed at the University Park campus.

## reader opinion

### Paradox

Some of us in this community have followed with interest what appears to be a paradox in response to the "Huck Finn" and the Penn State students for Palestine issues.

On the one hand, we hear cries against "censorship" of Mark Twain's work, and on the other, there are calls for a form of censorship of the Penn State Association for Palestine. The obvious hypocrisy in these two not so unrelated phenomena should escape no one. The apparent antipathy for these issues by most in the community speaks volumes for and about the community.

Last week any kind of real perspective, we should be reminded that there is an active, well-funded and not unsuccessful campaign to censor school books going on across this country. Those writers being censored include Langston Hughes, Richard Wright and John Howard Griffin.

The fact is that textbook selection in and of itself is a form of exclusion and often the decision of whether to include or exclude a book depends on the portrayal of familiar images. There is no doubt that to many, "Nigger Jim" is a familiar, therefore comfortable, image. Portrayal of American society as racist however, is not only unfamiliar but downright un-American and is easily omitted from any academic consideration.

This applies also to the American mentality on the issue of Palestine. We have grown so comfortable with the

image of Palestine as "terrorists" that our memory (and media) won't remind us that both Shamir and Begin were wanted criminals in the 1940s for acts of terrorism like blowing up the King David Hotel and the Dir Yassin Massacre.

Our image of the Israeli is that of the victim of the Holocaust, a freedom fighter determined to survive. It is perhaps disturbing to our sense of perspective to picture Israelis providing active and covert support to the racist regime in South Africa. It should not leave our memory that Andrew Young was hounded out of his United Nations post by Jewish interests for raising the issue of dialogue with the Palestinians.

It was ironic to note that in the very same issue of The Daily Collegian with letters calling for the censorship of the Palestinians, there was an item on the town of Nazareth, hometown of Jesus, which told how the Jews there are fighting to maintain Jewish/Arab segregation. A Jewish leader, Avraham Cohen, is quoted as saying, "No one here would like his daughter to marry an Arab..." The explicitly racist nature of such a comment should be more than disturbing to most Americans.

That some would find the symbolic representation of the Sabra and Shatila massacre to be "offensive" and in bad taste is of interest. However, an equal case could be made for "bad taste" and offensiveness for Israel's failed attempt at a final solution to the "Palestinian problem," that has now placed American forces once again in the black by Moshe Dayan, as surrogates for our anti-communist surrogate — Israel.

Goldman points out that he is disturbed by the possibility that a Palestinian bullet may kill American citizens. No doubt he was more disturbed when Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats fired on the USS Liberty in 1967 and in a two-hour period killed 34 Americans and wounded 171 others, including the machine gunning of life rafts. Incidentally, Israeli aircraft bear the Star of David.

Attempts to offer different points of view to prevailing and familiar images of "Nigger Jim" and "Nigger Ahmed" are met with equally unsympathetic and insensitive rebuffs. The fact that these issues, relative to the nature of compassion and justice within free societies are reason to pause, for nothing more divides people than foreclosing opportunities and avenues for discussion and debate. Alas, it appears young America is much more enthralled with "making a living" than living an examined life.

Lawrence W. Young, director  
Paul Robeson Cultural Center  
Oct. 29

I considered it one of the most fortunate mistakes I've ever made. The friends I made while I lived there are among my dearest and most enduring. The warmth of my welcome, and the helpfulness of my new neighbors has not more opened my eyes to the victims of prejudice, I got more love and support from these non-sexual friends than some women get from a husband or lover.

I feel that we could all avoid causing a lot of pain for others if we stopped labeling every person we meet by their race, religion or sexual orientation. Instead of knowing "a black, two Jews and a faggot," we would be pleased to extend friendship to "a Comp Sci major, two OTIS members and a track star."

Tracy Brant, freshman-man-environment relations  
Nov. 7

## Advice for thinking on one's feet

Today is Wednesday and, here at The Daily Collegian, Wednesday is Staff Column Day. (Wednesday is also forum day for readers, but only when there aren't any staff columns.)

Any member of the Collegian news staff may submit a column for publication on the editorial page as long as that column doesn't deal with news that the contributor is covering. I recently became town editor, so I can write on just about anything I want to write about.

I originally intended to write a somewhat boring but necessary piece about news coverage of ideas and/or events especially as it relates to available time and space requirements. It would have been about two hours and 15 inches of words to cure insomnia. I bagged it.

News coverage is more an issue for the Collegian's reader representative anyway. However, the decision not to write on news coverage wasn't as easy to make as it seems. I had already promised the editorial editor I would have a column for the next day's paper. I had already exceeded deadline by about an hour. I had already started worrying that I had bitten off more than I could chew and was choking on it.

I've had to make a few such spur-of-the-moment decisions since ascending from my position as senior reporter about two weeks ago. And every time I make one of these decisions I have to think "on my feet." You know — solve problems that I don't have any experience in solving.

It sounds difficult, but thinking "on your feet" really isn't. I can do it, so it follows that you can do it (or at least you should be able to do it).

It's basically a three-step process. You must have the ability to quickly organize your thoughts, keep the situation in perspective and, most of all, sound like you're saying something when actually all you're doing is organizing your thoughts and keep-

ing the situation in perspective.

I'm doing it now. (I had a political science professor who called it "waxing eloquently," but I was never really sure what "waxing" had to do with thinking on one's feet.)

I think I know what I would like to say in this column, but I'm not really sure how to accomplish it successfully and I'm worrying about whether what I have to say, if I actually end up saying it, really means beans to anyone out there.

So here I am organizing my thoughts, keeping the situation in perspective but, most of all, sounding like I'm saying something when actually all I'm doing is organizing my thoughts and keeping the situation in perspective.

One good way to organize thoughts is to keep a chronology of the events that led to the situation.

What led to the situation in which I find myself? It's a very long story, but the facts start with a complaint from a news source that he wasn't given adequate coverage by the Collegian. From there, the events progress (in chronological order, of course) to a plea from the editorial editor for more staff columns, my less-than-brilliant idea that it's actually my place to disclose the inner workings of the Collegian and, finally, my decision to volunteer to write this week's staff column.

(You can add in the complications of a

late Monday night spent drinking and watching football, a busy day of being town editor and a slow recovery from Monday night, but they really have little bearing on the actual problem at hand — fulfilling a promise to write this week's staff column.)

So there it is. A chronology of the events that led to this situation. (Reporters have a knack for making a long story short — or anyway, they should.)

Now, from that, and therefore from any other chronology of events, I can draw logical conclusions that might help me solve the problem at hand, as long as I can think clearly.

In order to think clearly I have to keep the situation in perspective. Let's face it: the world will not end if I don't write the staff column for tomorrow. In fact, it's safe to say the Middle East crisis isn't going to be solved if no one reads what I've written or, if everyone reads what I've written, unless some diplomat doesn't prepare for some summit meeting and is forced to think on his feet. (It's really easy to keep things in perspective when you think about them in this context. How certain situations affect certain individuals may be a little tougher to deal with.)

There, the situation is in perspective, at least in a broad sense, and all I have to do is address the third guideline for thinking on your feet: sounding like you're actually saying something when in fact you're only organizing your thoughts and keeping the situation in perspective.

But I've already done that. And you've been spared the agony of yet another forum on Euromissiles or, worse yet, news coverage.

S.A. Miller is a senior majoring in Journalism and was chosen as town editor for The Daily Collegian for his ability to think on his feet.



## reader opinion

### Political 'Games'

Carol Frank's letter Nov. 2 brought up two interesting points about how the Olympic Games have been politicized and commercialized.

The "Munich Massacre" of 1972 was indeed a shock to the world and perhaps the most overt expression of politics in the history of the Olympics.

People wonder if this helped to bring attention to the plight of the Palestinians. Reviewing their current status — still no "homeland" and still not being welcomed by any of the Arab countries — I doubt that anything was achieved.

Perhaps this is also due to the fact that members of the "civilized world" (and I use that term loosely, considering the various methods of destruction at our disposal today — civilized implies rationality and having a better means for killing off one another to resolve political differences) don't recognize terrorism as a means to express a point of view.

Others often wonder if the U.S. boycott of the 1980 games accomplished anything, save for a "slap on the wrist" to the Soviets. I tell them that they should not have invaded Afghanistan.

What is interesting about Olympic history is that when it was time for the Olympics in ancient Greece, the warring parties (Athens and Sparta) declared a truce which lasted for the duration of the games. Supposedly not a person was killed or injured during this time (that is, no breach of the truce) and neither

side used the games as a way of expressing their political ideologies.

In this respect, it appears that mankind has regressed rather than evolved.

Glenn S. Berman  
graduate-public administration  
Nov. 2

### Masquerade

I find it hard to believe that The Daily Collegian allows writers such as John Protevi and Kelly Fracassa to masquerade as responsible spokesmen for the Euromissiles issues, or any other issue that they have misunderstood.

The only point that they have succeeded in getting across is that they both have a marked lack of understanding of the issues that they discuss. They distort facts, make unsupported assumptions and grossly inaccurate generalizations. All of which succeed only in showing how little they really understand.

The Collegian's one page limit for letters prohibits any attempt to refute coherently all the errors in these columns. The claim to keep letters to one page because they are easier to read is ridiculous. If I can read a four-page forum, it certainly isn't more difficult to read a two-page letter (especially when the quality of the letters is much greater than most of the forums). A forum is not the place to point out the errors and distortions of a previous forum.

Please reconsider your limit on letters so

that the issues can be properly presented. Or, preferably, find columnists who don't try to rearrange reality to comply with their lack of understanding.

King W. Wieman, graduate-acoustics  
Nov. 4

### Like father, like son

I wholeheartedly agree with Freddie Stark's edit on federal employment.

Who in their right mind would want to work for the federal government? Help other people? Help the country? My God, 40 hours a week? That's outrageous!

I can't believe my own father has wasted the last 10 years working for the government and worked before that for 20 years as an officer in the U.S. Army. I'm so ashamed!

He claims to be happy at his work but how could he be? I don't think he's made a million dollars in his whole worthless life, never mind in one year.

Brother, I must be as dumb as he is for joining the Navy ROTC. I could graduate and get a job in big business and land my pockets with money made sitting on my butt behind a big desk dreaming up ways to avoid paying taxes.

But nooooooo! Now I have to go into the Navy and risk getting my ass shot off in Beirut or wherever to protect the freedom of the rest of you screwheads have to sit around and make money.

I must be insane. I could do worse though. I could be a school teacher or a social worker.

Todd Gunerman, junior-management  
Nov. 7

### Coming home

The University wants me to go home for Thanksgiving. My family wants me to come home for Thanksgiving. I want to go home for Thanksgiving. However, I have a class that evening of the 23rd.

The dorms are scheduled to close at 7 that evening. Since my class runs past that time, I can't even return to my room to pick things up afterwards.

I am sure many other students are in the same situation.

To accommodate students with evening classes, the University should close the dorms one half-hour after the last class ends.

Another alternative would be to cancel classes for that evening (or even the whole day!) and to reschedule them for a later date.

Students should not have sacrificed allotted class time because of a scheduling oversight on the part of the University.

Perhaps the University can remedy this oversight before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Hilary Welliver, junior-secondary education  
Nov. 7

### True blue

This is addressed to Greg Hanson and Michael Murphy whose letter appeared on this page Nov. 2.

I'm appalled at their arrogance and their blatant lack of understanding of what it is to be an American. They wrote, "This letter goes out to all those Americans (?) who have written idiotic statements about the invasion of Grenada and the presence of American troops in Lebanon." Apparently, the wisdom of putting American troops in action is unclear to only an un-American idiot.

Too bad we don't have some place like Siberia where we can put all those idiots and dissidents, right, Greg? Too bad we have to let idiots speak their piece, right, Michael?

Too bad we all don't understand communism as well as you two do. Forget the restaurant business, Greg. I see a brilliant future for you in the State Department.

It's good, though, that you're not narrow-minded.

Why can't we just take all those leftists and commies and pinkos and idiots and vegetarians and homosexuals and foreign TA's and put them somewhere, not a concentration camp or anything, just get them out of here, so we true-blue, red-blooded Americans can fight our wars in peace? Right?

Paul MacMillan, Class of '83  
Nov. 4

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