

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1983

editorial opinion

Council rushes zoning plans

If one were to characterize the voting record of the outgoing State College Municipal Council members, it would be based on their habit of voting along political lines.

And at Monday night's council meeting, the story was no different as Joseph Wakeley Jr. and Fred Honsberger got their parting shots in on an issue that at least one fellow council member thinks may have been rushed through the voting process because a new council takes office next month.

The issue in question is, according to a Planning Commission recommendation, whether to rezone public lands in accordance with surrounding zoning designations. Public lands are defined as districts owned by the borough or municipal authority that are not subject to the usual zoning restrictions.

Rezoning in accordance with surrounding property would, as Planning Commission Chairman Roger Downs said, give the borough more control over public lands — lands that are considered the only part of the zoning ordinance out of control.

The council, however, decided to reclassify each of the 19 public zones on a case by case basis, instead of an inclusive ordinance which would automatically revert each public parcel to its adjacent zoning designation.

This decision, with one exception, is basically fair to the incoming council because it will allow it to decide in the future what to designate 18 of the 19 public districts.

But instead of allowing the issue to rightfully wait until the January meeting, the

present council, led by its lame-duck members, had to get its hand in the cookie jar.

In a 4-3 vote, the council decided to rezone only one of the 19 public districts, the land occupied by the Centre Area Transportation Authority's garage, from its public designation to a R-2 land use. R-2 is classified for residential use only.

Councilman Dan Chaffee, who will be returning to the new council, agreed with the decision to rezone case by case, but thinks the CATA decision was made too hastily. He said the council did not have sufficient time to understand a legal opinion on the change from Borough Solicitor Robert Kistler.

Not to mention the problems CATA, which is trying to relocate its facilities, may have selling the land now that its R-2 designation limits the type of investors that could purchase the land. At least under the old designation, chances of the garage land being sold were much better because the most likely buyer, the borough itself, is now prevented, under R-2 rules, from purchasing it.

One can only speculate why Honsberger, Wakely and two other Republican members, John Dombroski and Gary Wisner voted for the CATA land change.

For no other reason, except for a politically motivated one, the council intruded on an issue that certainly could have waited another month, and should have, in all fairness to the interests of the State College voter.



the Collegian
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1983
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Editor

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reader opinion

Proud to be in marketing

In rebuttal to the clowns who wrote "Drop the subject" on Friday, Dec. 2:

If, in your opinion, the petition to change Management 301 was asking too much, then a letter was fine.

However, when that same letter becomes a vicious attack on the whole College of Business Administration, then your purpose and your editorial become flagrant.

First of all, the line "What time is business first period, 11:15?" is ludicrous. I have first period five days a week and I am there promptly at 8 a.m. everyday.

I am curious as to the implications of their statement. Second, as to the comment, "College of Business Administration is open to review . . . achievements and knowledge lacking."

For your information, Penn State's College of Business Administration is among the top 20 undergraduate schools for Business Administration in this country! More than we can say for the College of Engineering.

Third, their ridiculous comment, "If weeded out of the College of Business Administration, there is no place else to go."

Well, there's always engineering.

Oh, in case you forgot, the present quantitative business analysis major has much similar course content as compared to industrial engineering.

I'd like to see how the authors of "Drop the Subject" would fare in Econ 302, or Q.B.A. 102, or Marketing 450.

It would probably be too conceptual for them and they would be wondering where the button on their calculator to solve a "real problem" was.

Finally, if the implication of "Drop the subject" is that engineers are "better" than businessmen, then allow me to remind you who makes "real money" — the corporate executives, and who makes average pay working for the corporate executives, the R and D teams.

I'm sorry if I confused you engineers, that means "Research and Development." Plug that into your calculators!

Stuart Haas, junior-marketing
Dec. 5

Threat is the issue

What Carol Frank (Collegian, Nov. 30) did not understand is that the deepest and most burning issue of today is precisely the threat of nuclear war brought upon us by the proliferating U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals.

Due to their very nature, which is disjunctively incremental, these arsenals place even more stringent demands for diplomatic precision than would normally be required between two antagonistic states.

Further, these arsenals make both the United States and the Soviet Union vulnerable to third party involvement. The situation in the Mideast could easily explode into a direct U.S.-U.S.S.R. confrontation. Should either Reagan or Andropov be incapacitated at the time (and both have been at some point) the result could be nuclear catastrophe.

A bilateral freeze is not a panacea. Massive stockpiles would still exist and the U.S.-U.S.S.R. polarity would still dominate world politics. But a freeze would at least stop the proliferation of arms, along with the coincidently increasing risks of nuclear accident.

Additionally, we could expect an improved atmosphere in which to negotiate arms reductions. John Kennedy began a unilateral ban on atmospheric tests which he said would continue as long as it was honored by the Soviets. Far from "taking advantage" of the situation, the Russians complied as well, and in 1963 the formal test ban treaty was soon negotiated.



Carol Frank's "cynical tendencies" may hide nothing more than a lack of information and/or the will to act. Neither can be an excuse in a democratic state. For more information, please come to the next nuclear freeze group meeting (Wesley foundation, 8 p.m., Dec. 8).

Mass movements can affect change; your actions (or inaction) do count. Once you understand the situation, you will see that this may be the most important thing you'll ever do for your future.

John Mier, senior-architectural engineering.
Dec. 6

reader opinion

Monotony on the air

What happened to WQWK? When we returned to Penn State after Thanksgiving break a twinedes, we noticed a few changes. What happened to breakfast specials, two-shot Tuesdays, the work-force block and their other musical novelties?

Their so-called new sound lacks the old variety, and relies on playing the same few popular hits at regular intervals throughout the day.

We used to return to the room from a monotonous day of classes to listen to the radio and relax. Unfortunately, now we must face more monotony on the air.

It's not that we don't enjoy these songs, but too much of a good thing can be irritating. We realize there are worse problems in the world than the loss of a radio station, but out here, music is an essential part of everyone's day.

We would just like the "old" sound of WQWK Rock to return, and not be able to count the variety of songs on one hand, because hearing the same song every hour on the hour is just not enjoyable listening.

Amy Schoenagel, sophomore-civil engineering
Traci Steele, sophomore-French business
Dec. 5

Physicists nuke Ed

All hall Ed Macey and his crew of Chem E jerks. This is in response to your letter, "Drop the subject" in the Dec. 2 Daily Collegian in which you indignantly belittled the others who aren't interested in your Chem E handbooks.

Although we ourselves are not business majors, we can understand that different people have different interests and how perturbed they can become when a self-appointed intellectual "elite" continually abuses anyone outside its inner circle.

Being nuclear physics majors, we occasionally take engineering courses of one type or another, and believe us, it's no party being in a class full of losers in glasses who are wielding pocket computers. There is more to life than discussing past grades and molecular orbits, Ed.

Now, concerning your disdain for weeknight partying, maybe it's because you're a geek.

Contrary to Ed's forecast of ill omen, there is a hope for business majors. One of our fathers, a Penn State business graduate, is a vice president of a western Pennsylvania coal company and earns a six-digit salary along with the use of a five-digit expense account. And guess what Ed, he owns engineers like yourself.

So take that you fat, trendy pud.

Chris Kammerer, junior-nuclear physics
John Ingros, junior-nuclear physics
Dec. 5

Trust the Soviets?

"Reagan's policy — like that of past administrations — is based on the old rule that despite the appearance of mutual good will, the Soviet Union can't and never should be trusted. However, in the opposition's eyes, can we be trusted either?"

With such a statement, the Collegian editorial opinion column of Nov. 29 indicated its position on U.S./Russian affairs, seemingly void of basic knowledge of the Soviet system of government.

Again, the Collegian states, "If the United States says it's interested in arms reduction — all the while introducing a plan to add to the arms race — should the Soviet Union trust us?"

In the book, "Who's for Peace?" by Francis Schaeffer, Vladimir Bukovsky and James Hitchcock, Bukovsky says, "There is in fact little difference between the Soviet system and that of Nazi Germany. Is there anyone who

supposes that he should have trusted Hitler more than the democracies?" (p.51).

Bukovsky spent 12 years in Soviet prisons before being released to the West in 1976. Schaeffer states that "for them (the Soviets), oppression is not incidental to the system. It is a logical, integral and inevitable part of their system." (p.22).

Some knowledge of Russian History since their revolution, and recent activities such as the killing of 259 people on a Korean Airlines jet, indicate to me that the Soviets are, indeed, not to be trusted.

I claim no authority on U.S. or Russian policies, and needless to say, this book is not the final word, but it substantiate some real concerns with concrete evidence.

Bukovsky points out that while the peace movement in Europe is raging at the United States for the deployment of Pershing missiles, the movement in Europe "speaks only in whispers, if that, about the hundreds of Soviet SS-20's already aimed at Western Europe." I highly recommend this book to anyone that desires a sober, realistic estimate of the recent movement in nuclear affairs in the United States and Russia.

Ann E. Mancini, Graduate Non-Degree
Dec. 6

All-nighters:

With finals around the corner, this favorite collegiate pastime draws near

This time next week, college students across the country will be participating in the ultimate collegiate activity. No, the activity has nothing to do with intercollegiate sports or coastal vacation tours. It won't even include the planning of new menus for spring semester or the debate over who is going to take the goldfish home for the holidays.

We are all going to participate in a tradition that lasts all night long.

What does one wear to the festive occasion of an all-nighter? At this very moment, manufacturers are probably producing chic all-nighter's attire. But die-hard fans, like myself, prefer the sweat pants and T-shirt that were purchased for first period gym class. (You know, the class that I somehow never found during the past 15 weeks.)

No pseudo-participants will be tolerated during this nocturnal pastime — either stay up and be somewhat prepared or go to bed and be somewhat prepared. The choice is up to you.

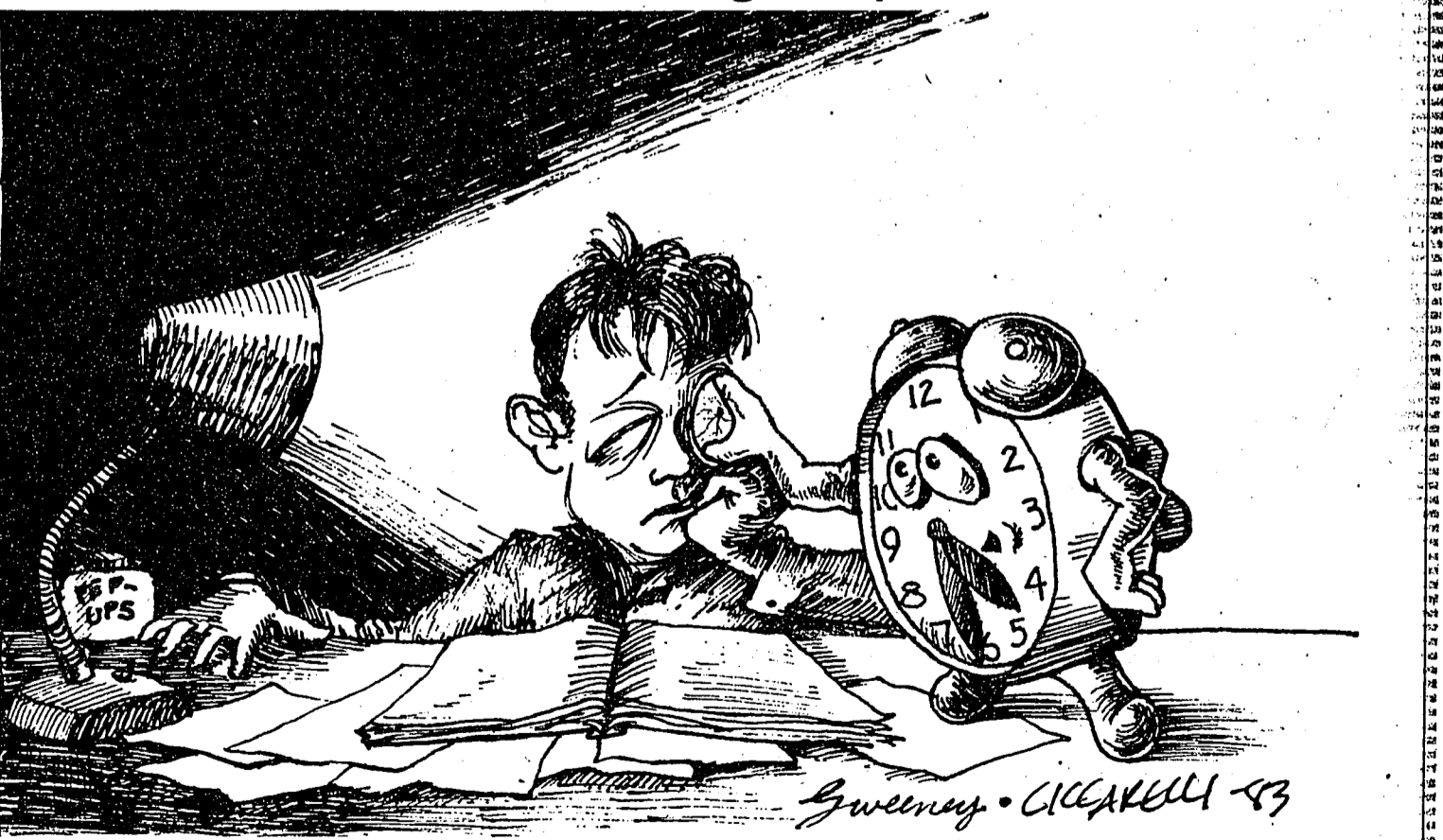
"All-nighters? Why, they're a blow-off student's best friend," a friend of mine said. At first I found this observation amusing. Now I find it repulsive. How dare anyone be optimistic about all-nighters. They are the worst thing in this world next to liver and onions and two-month-old gym socks. (I do know of one person who really does like liver and onions, but fortunately my father hates dirty socks.)

Optimism is what we don't need when we are faced with a term (oh, excuse me) semester project that should have been finished yesterday and we are still trying to locate East Pattee.

I really don't need to look on the bright side of my academic situation (if there is one) as I approach the last few days of classes. Finals that I have yet to open a book for are just around the corner and I'm still two blocks away.

My typewriter will inevitably break down at 5 a.m. when the take-home is due in three hours. Of course, the paper is 14 pages long and I type approximately three words per hour. (This lack of speed is not due to my poor typing skills; it is more the result of my limited, somewhat non-existent attention span.)

I've heard about time management and effective course planning. That's the problem, I've heard about them and never did anything about them. It was at this time that



I also heard about all-nighters. Guess which one got my vote.

What I find most amusing about all-nighters is that every time I "pull" one, I make a solemn promise to never submit myself to such excitement again. But, hey, I'm hooked. I keep going back for more. I really don't know why. You would think that after three pots of coffee and a week of indigestion I would have learned my lesson.

I do, however, only participate in such activities during finals week. I often threaten to pull one throughout the semester (much to the hysterics of my roommates) but I decided to just wait until the pressure is on. Well, the pressure is now certainly mounting but I've still got a week. No problems — I can handle it.

When you come down to it, all-nighters are the result of poor academic discipline and ineffective study skills. They are physically grueling and mentally exhausting. By the time I actually get to the final, I am concentrating on only one thing — getting back home to bed.

I'll never do it again. (I've had so much practice, I'm sure that I will.) Every other weary-eyed student will too. We'll all go home and sleep it off. In fact, we'll sleep all through break. After that we'll come back and start all over again with new resolutions to keep up with all the work. Except for seniors like me. I'm graduating in May. I know I'll have to go for it just one last time.

K. L. Kane is a senior majoring in journalism and a senior reporter for The Daily Collegian.

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