

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Wednesday, April 4, 1984

## editorial opinion

### A blow-out for consumer rights?

A consumer rights case that will go before the Michigan Supreme Court tomorrow sounds like something you might see in "The People's Court."

Clarence Miller, 66, of St. Clair, Michigan bought a new Dodge car from Colonial Dodge of East Detroit in 1976. But when Miller drove the car home from the dealership, he realized there was something missing from his new car — it was missing a spare tire.

The dealership said the Chrysler Corporation shipped the car without the spare because of a rubber workers' strike that was going on at the time the car came off the assembly line.

Regardless, Miller says he is the kind of person who expects to get what he pays for — so he cancelled the checks he used to pay for the car and left the car sitting along the curb in front of his house.

Now the case is going to the Michigan Supreme Court for a decision that attorneys agree will set a precedent for consumer rights battles.

The case has wound its way for years through several Michigan courts. The dealership won the original case at the trial level, when Miller was ordered to pay \$1,000 in damages and interest to the dealership. Miller agreed to pay the damages, but the dealership was not satisfied — they wanted

a settlement for the full amount of the car: \$5,697.

In two subsequent appeals, Miller has won one and the dealership has won one. Now, Miller has successfully appealed the case to Michigan's highest court.

What is at stake in this case is just how defective a product must be before the consumer can draw the line.

In this case, Miller made repeated attempts to allow the dealership to compensate him for the missing spare. But how far should Miller have had to go before he drew the line? Obviously the agreement of purchasing a new car includes the spare tire.

And when Miller agreed to pay the first settlement of \$1,000 in damages to the dealership, the dealer should not have balked. After all, is not the dealer responsible for providing exactly and completely what the customer has paid for?

In the meantime, the car still sits, rusting, where it has for the last eight years in a lot in St. Clair, 45 miles north of Detroit, where police towed the car after the temporary license tags expired.

As citizens' awareness of our legal system increases, as well as incidents of consumer fraud, the Michigan Supreme Court should jump at this chance to send a message to businesses who fail to provide satisfactory service to their customers.



## reader opinion

### A transition year?

The recent interview with Men's Basketball Coach Bruce Parkhill has given a slightly distorted view of this year's season. It is very unfortunate that a team with the talent and athletic ability it possessed only won five games.

The team was previewed by most sports writers as possessing quickness, speed, but lacking a big front-line. It seems unfitting to have a system relying on posting up such a small front court. When you have a center with little ability inside and your power forward is 6'7" — weigh only 250 lbs. but is a very good outside shooter with suitable ball-handling abilities — this system seems inappropriate. One can only conclude that Coach Parkhill either used poor reasoning or just dismissed this season to induce a system.

This system restricted the game of one of his key players. David Griffin showed potential for having an outstanding season, but instead he was forced to play out of position against much taller and heavier players. We should applaud his efforts even more because it appeared he was the only one making any major sacrifices.

Could you imagine Letty Drissell, (Maryland's Head Coach), asking Adrian Branch, an excellent outside shooter, to play totally inside when he weighs only 190 lbs. — and in his senior year?

Therefore, not only were the Nittany Lions one player away from being a good team, but they lacked offensive and coaching system that fit the team's talents and abilities.

name withheld by request

**It ain't easy**

Have any of you ever thought about what it would be like to be blind, or unable to walk? Me neither. Well, last week, A.B.L.E.D. (Association for Barrier-Free Living, Environment and Design) gave me and others the chance to experience a few of the problems that the handicapped face daily.

A.B.L.E.D. held a Capability Week at the HUB, and on Tuesday (March 27) they had a wheelchair obstacle course and an opportunity to experience a visual impairment, conducted by Percy Wilson.

I participated in the obstacle course. I didn't think I'd have any trouble maneuvering a wheelchair. It was I for a big surprise. Something as simple as turning around in a small area can become a major difficulty for someone in a wheelchair. I didn't realize how difficult it can be to get over a curb or get a book out of a shelf. Even going through a doorway can be an obstacle that must be overcome.

I thought I was aware of the problems that the disabled face. Capability Week showed me just how little I do know. It opened my eyes even more to the many obstacles that must be overcome daily.

I would like to thank A.B.L.E.D. for providing me and so many others with the opportunity to experience a few of the many problems those with handicaps must deal with. I also thank God that I was able to get out of the wheelchair and walk away.

Jeanne George, sophomore-nursing  
March 30

**Who the enemy is**

As a food service worker, I take issue with "The Daily Collegian's" editorial regarding Nittany '83. The plight of the clerical workers is totally unrelated to the technical, service employees, and to infer this does a disservice to both factions.

In 1967, the tech service workers voted in favor of unionization. The clerical workers opposed this decision. In the past 17 years, tech service employees have paid monthly union dues to insure job security, dignity in their work place, good benefits and decent wages. The clerical staff has shared some of these benefits, without paying their dues.

They "opted" instead for close relationships with their respective bosses. Now they realize that this amiability does not pay the rent, or put food on the table, and thus "the grass is greener" syndrome comes into being. The clerical workers' dilemma is an ideal example for union justification.

It's true the clerical workers are under-paid, however, they deserve more money not because they are competing with the tech service workers, but because they deserve to live above the poverty level.

Organizing is certainly a necessary step, for without it there is no bargaining power. It is also vitally important that Nittany '83 vent their anger in the right direction if they wish to achieve their goals.

They would be well advised not to wage war until they determine who the enemy is, and in this case it is NOT the tech service employees.

Jake Stanford, Pollock Dining Hall  
March 23

**Get it right!**

In the fourth paragraph of my letter about NBC's Robert Bazell (reader opinion Apr. 3) I said "The average scientist knows there are more questions than answers, so scientists don't have all the answers." I did not say that the average scientist knows the answers!

Get it right this time!

Frank Cheng, graduate-chemistry  
April 3

**Objects, not individuals**

As I was skimming through the pages of Collegian Magazine, I noticed an ad for electrolysis for both men and women. The advertisement included a brief description of electrolysis which supplied the appropriate information designed to attract the potential consumer. So far so good.

But why include the silhouette of a naked woman? The woman is the object (and I do mean object) that initially draws attention to the advertisement, and even the margin of the words follows the contour of the woman's shape. Electrolysis has nothing to do with the female body, and yet this is the central focus of the ad.

I'm confused. Why the correlation between silhouettes and electrolysis, and what is being implied by putting the two together? If I have electrolysis done, will I look like this woman? And what about the man who has electrolysis, will he look like this woman? Where is the silhouette of the naked man, anyway? Why do I get the feeling electrolysis is for women to have to improve their looks for men?

It seems to me I am constantly (but oh, so subtly) being given the message that a woman is an object, not an individual, and that a woman's worth is largely related to her personal appearance. If this is true, there must be a lot of wonderful human beings who are feeling pretty worthless.

Kathy Neal, freshman-arts and architecture  
March 30

**the Collegian**  
Wednesday, April 4, 1984  
©1984 Collegian Inc.

Alicia Swazy Susan M. Mollo  
daily Business Manager

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of the Daily Collegian, Inc. or The Pennsylvania State University. Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

Board of Editors — Managing Editor: Marcy Mermel; Editorial Editor: Harry Weiss; Assistant Editorial Editor: Ron Yeany; News Editors: John Schlander, M. Lee Schneider; Sports Editor: Greg Loder; Assistant Sports Editors: John Severance, Chris Whitman, Matt Michael; Photo Editor: Paul Chiland, Thomas Swarr; Assistant Photo Editor: Bill Cramer; Arts Editor: Heidi Baer; Assistant Arts Editor: Diane O'Piero; Campus Editor: Christine Murray; Assistant Campus Editor: Lori Musser; Town Editor: K.L. Kane; Assistant Town Editor: Michael Newsam; Features Editor: Jeanne Ann Curry; Assistant Features Editor: Grace LoMonaco; Graphics Editor: Tom Ciccarilli; Copy Editors: Dina Defabo, John Hoff, Patricia Hungerford, Christine Kay, Marcia McGrath, Lori-Marie Vall, Rebecca Albert; Weekly Collegian Editor: Michele Jo Pupack; Weekly Collegian Assistant Editor: Laura Dunhoff.

Letters Policy: The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, signed by no more than two people and not longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the term, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter.

The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. Because of the numbers of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all the letters it receives.

Mail letters to: The Daily Collegian, 128 Carnegie Building, University Park, Pa. 16802. Letters may be withheld on request. Letters may also be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian.

Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager. If a complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, grievances may be filed with the Accuracy and Fair Play Committee of Collegian Inc. Information on filing grievances is available from Gerry Lynn Hamilton, executive secretary, Collegian Inc.

**THE LIFE OF JESSE JACKSON**

No Stone Left Unturned

Jesse, like Gary and Fritz, is also a talented mimic of 1960s figures...

I DON'T WANNA EAT THIS LIVER... I WANNA HAVE A PIZZA DELIVERED!

JESSE LOVES HINSELF!

I HAVE A SCHEME... ER... AH... DREAM!

THAT 'NINE BUSINESS... WHEN HEH JUST KIDDING.

In 1979, he unwittingly kisses off the New York primary...

And, just in case there were any Jewish voters who missed it...

## If it ain't good enough for the governor, it ain't for us either

The Philadelphia Inquirer published Sunday an article about the traveling escapades of Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh's two sons. It seems as if those two lads are getting state trooper escorts to and from schools in Massachusetts while Pennsylvania is paying the bill.

Now, I read about how the Thornburgh boys are going out of state for education. Thornburgh's 17-year-old son is attending a preparatory school in western Massachusetts. His 25-year-old is a graduate student at Harvard. I can understand going out-of-state for graduate schools. However, I cannot understand going out-of-state for a preparatory school.

The Daily Collegian recently reported that more than 145,000 eighth graders in the state's public schools will soon be receiving a message from Thornburgh. The message is intended to inspire the students to "make a commitment to a personal agenda for excellence" by signing up for a solid program of academic courses during their high school years. Private schools are also eligi-

ble for the pamphlet as well as many of the other programs that Thornburgh is enlisting.

It is my understanding that what Thornburgh is saying is thoughtful course selection and advanced placement. Enrollment will aid students in getting the most from their education. Thornburgh does not, however, say that a plan to implement these recommended courses is available and that a student should make a conscious effort to enroll.

But, what happened to the younger son? Couldn't he make a conscious effort to correctly choose a beneficial course selection? Or is it that the courses just weren't there and he found them in a better school? It is a sad commentary on the state of education in Pennsylvania when a top government official who is so avid about improving education — sends his son to an out-of-state school. So much for confidence in the existing system.

I am not condemning the new educational policies and programs that Thornburgh is attempting to set forth. But I am questioning the timing of such proposals.

When Thornburgh took office in January 1979, he was faced with many problems, including education. For the most part, he hasn't done a bad job. Now in his second term as governor, Thornburgh is taking a hard look at education. But it was during his first term that the issue of his son's education came up.

It must have been apparent then that the education of his son was not acceptable. If it was acceptable, troopers would not be escorting the boy to and from Massachusetts.

State officials and legislators have, over the past few years, asked Thornburgh's budgets harsh to education. This year, however, the 1984-85 budget is being seen in a better light. That's good news.

In his 1984-85 budget, Thornburgh has proposed a 1 percent funding increase for

elementary and secondary education. In addition, the governor recently appointed a 25-member commission to ensure that state funds are used to the best advantage for the public good and to encourage sound management and planning by each institution. Steps are being taken in the right direction to provide quality in the education available to Pennsylvania's residents.

But, now the question is, are we too late? Are the commissions, the funding and the programs going to work? An uphill battle that must be fought is waiting for those dedicated to "Excellence in Education." We should not, however, wait until the problem with education reaches our own backyards before we open our eyes. I believe Thornburgh waited and unfortunately found his backyard in Massachusetts. Now, I ask, where do we find ours?

K.L. Kane is a senior majoring in journalism and town editor of The Daily Collegian.

## opinions

### Point is eclipsed by representation

Regarding Michael Newnam's opinion on dying alone — he made, perhaps, one valid point: it is unfortunate when someone dies alone. However, the scenario he described has an overlay of anti-feminism.

Newnam suggests that a wife's responsibility is to stay with her husband regardless of the situation. In this case, because she was financially comfortable and not "mistreated" she (of course) should have stayed. The outrage inherent in such a situation is that Newnam didn't know the particulars of the relationship. The wife is stated to have taken the daughter and abandoned her who then dies alone 15 years later. The article is scarred with anti-feminist statements about a woman's responsibility.

I'm confused. Why the correlation between men to the alone and men are the heroes coming to each other's rescue. Newnam's point is thus unfortunately obscured by his representation of women.

Ann McDonough, graduate-psychology  
March 28

## Socialist failures abound, even in this country

The conservative wave has been gathering momentum since the 1970's and now is sweeping the country, not to mention the world. Thanks to keen policy making by the Reagan administration, the U.S. economy may finally be on a path of steady, long-term growth. Those words are music to my ears.

Hitler's "new era" talk. You see, it's not the conservative Republicans who are reactionary, but the neo-liberals (no means new; today's conservatives are yesterday's 1970's-type liberals), who still have not yet caught up to the latest voter craze. That is, if you promise less government interference, lower taxes, stronger national defense and long-term economic growth, you will be elected president. If you don't, well, just look at the Democratic candidates.

Even in Europe, conservatism has eroded the proportion of Socialists (Europe's left) in governments. As reported in Economist magazine on Aug 7 1983, Socialists now represent only 36.4 percent of cabinet members.

Moreover, in England, a BBO-Gallup, pre-election survey done in June 1983 revealed that 57 percent of voters would rather denationalize British Steel and British Leyland, which, by the way, did happen. And 61 percent believed that unemployment should be remedied by allowing private companies to keep more of their profits.

The policy prescriptions sound like disguised Reaganomics, whereby deregulation and tax cuts act as incentives for growth. Indeed, my friends, socialism is a blatant failure. It promises utopian-like equality, which was more than it could deliver. In fact, it is argued that socialism widens the gap between rich and poor. Furthermore, through

central planning, socialism has caused inefficient resource use.

Take, for example, the Soviet Union. It is, after all, a socialist country. What can be derived from the CIA and Soviet "leaks" is that Soviet socialism is not only destroying its economy, but is rapidly depleting the world's resources. Now all countries, not just the Soviet Union, are the losers.

Specifically, a study done by Pamela Desai and Riccardo Martin — as reported in Quarterly Journal of Economics magazine in August 1983 — concluded that misallocation of resources resulting from Soviet inefficiency is, on a global scale, from at least three to four percent to 10 percent. That, they argue, is quite significant. Now all countries, not just the Soviet Union, are the losers.

What's more, it doesn't look like any relief is in sight. According to Economist magazine, Sept. 3 1983, with the emergence of Chernenko as the new Soviet leader, central planning — thus inefficiency — is expected to increase.

Although Brezhnev's gang was partially to blame for the do-nothingness of Andropov's brief reign, few people realize that Chernenko was one of Andropov's main opponents.

Basically, good ol' Chernenko and his batch of cronies — the apparatchiks — are too entrenched in dogma to perceive the country's needs. They thwarted all plans that resembled reform.

Andropov with his fellow technocrats, on the

other hand, believed in reform by using economic levers and incentives rather than local party interference. Thus, they argued, central planning and party rule would be strengthened.

Unfortunately, Chernenko — an old Soviet socialist who cannot bare the thought of his group losing power — will not improve the Soviet economy.

Meanwhile, back in the states, young voters like myself are more optimistic with each passing day that our economy will stay healthy. Still, though, we have the neo-liberal Democrats who insist upon igniting inflation by repealing tax indexing and monetizing the debt.

Ultra-left-leaning Hart is becoming more and more unpalatable as he floods us with his increase-government-spending-on-everything talk. While Mondale, who sounds more like John Glenn every day, is still a Socialist at the core. Will they ever see the light?

"In the end, one agrees with the great conservative economist Frederick von Hayek," the Dec. 6, 1982 Forbes magazine said. "Socialism is a return to feudalism. It is not the wave of the future — not in the Soviet Union, not anywhere."

Jeffrey J. Diecidue is a junior majoring in journalism and economics and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

**Tiffany Deli**  
Call 237-6200

- Starting at 11:00 AM for Lunch
- Fri. & Sat. 'till 3:00 AM
- Sun. & Thurs. 'till Midnight

for free delivery  
318 E. College Ave. (Below Campus Casino)

FREE 22 oz. FRESH Drink With Any Deli Sandwich or Hoagie Delivered w/coupon exp. 4/15/84

FREE 22 oz. FRESH Drink With Any Deli Sandwich or Hoagie Delivered w/coupon exp. 4/15/84

ARE YOU GOING TO BE FREE U HERE THIS SUMMER?  
HOW ABOUT STARTING A FREE U COURSE?  
Course Forms are available at 223 HUB or you can do it by phone 863-0038.

DUE DATE FOR SUMMER FREE U COURSES IS APRIL 20th AT 223 HUB

—Phi Psi 500—  
KAΘ STRIVE FOR "FIVE" Spirit is our Specialty

The Environmental Resource Mgmt. Club presents the film:  
**"the Poisoning Of Michigan"**  
"An agency's ineffective handling of an environmental disaster"

Wed. April 4th 301 Ag Admin.  
Showtime: 7:30 p.m.  
Everyone Welcome!

**EUROPE BY CAR**  
RENT OR BUY LOWEST PRICES FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS

EUROPE BY CAR One Rockefeller Plaza New York, N.Y. 10020 Phone (212) 581-5040

Mail this ad for Special Student/Teacher Tariff. RENTAL LEASE PURCHASE

COLON AND RECTUM CANCER IS THE CANCER NO ONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.

TELL ME WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED.

WELL THEN, AT LEAST READ ABOUT IT... ABOUT A SIMPLE TESTING PROCEDURE... ABOUT HOW EARLY DETECTION CAN SAVE LIVES...

AMAZING!

BUT WHY DIDN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS BEFORE?

LET'S TALK. For a free booklet on colon & rectum cancer, contact your local ACG office.

American Cancer Society

Sociable days & long long nights get off at THE TRAIN STATION

junction of college & garner