

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Tuesday, April 10, 1984

## editorial opinion

### An inflamed town-gown issue is brought to a boil this past weekend

Why was Delta Upsilon fraternity cited for disorderly conduct on Sunday afternoon? According to police reports, Delta Upsilon's — and seven other fraternities' — "Spring Fling" party complete with three live bands and sponsored by the Miller Brewing Co. had gone beyond reasonable noise limits. The police claim they received some noise complaints before issuing a warning and asking the organizers to tone down the sound. After receiving 25 more complaints, the police cited Delta Upsilon for disorderly conduct and closed down the festivities. The fraternities — and Undergraduate Student Government President Emil Parvensky in particular — claim that they had asked the police for a trial noise-level reading prior to the event, only to be refused. Parvensky asserted that this request — a courtesy fraternities

and police have invoked since the noise debate began — would have given the organizers an opportunity to set the noise output at a level within legal limits. This request seemed to be in the best interests of the community, and the police have cooperated in the past. Without this mutual courtesy on Sunday, however, Parvensky perhaps is correct in stating that the organizers had no idea whether the noise was excessive (as defined by the borough.) Questions such as were the police correct in invoking a disorderly conduct charge instead of a simple noise violation or why the arrests when the fraternities had the courtesy to apply for a borough permit might be asked in the organizer's defense. After all, they didn't have to apply for the permit since the event was on private property. Even without the the municipal council's

approval — which it got matter-of-factly — the party could have gone on. On the surface, the arrest seemed to be based on the ever-mounting town-gown tensions that have become commonplace the last few years. Fraternity members and other students residing in the borough claim unfair treatment while the borough struggles to find a happy medium whereby residents can enjoy neighborhood life without succumbing to blaring stereos and drunk and disorderly students. But in view of the nature of the community and these spring alcohol-endorsed parties — of which the previous day's Phi Psi 500 and the upcoming Sy Barash Regatta and Briarwood Bash are no exceptions — there is perhaps a deeper problem involved that both the borough and the students aren't willing to examine.

What is not needed is a dismantling of these special events — special because they comprise much of the atmosphere that makes Penn State unique. What is needed, however, is a deeper understanding between the students and the borough as to the roots of the problems and what can be mutually accomplished to ease the tensions. Remember, too much of a good thing is sometimes too much for all those involved to bear.

Another issue that the board has been criticized on lately is the credit union building in North. The building will be moved to one side of the quad as requested, but not because you students asked. You see, when the building was planned, the issue of parking was not thought about. The issue has been brought to the attention of the planners, and they agree with you — there will be a parking problem. Thus the rest of the area will (at a later date) be turned into a parking lot. As for such problems as water pressure, don't worry, they won't be fixed unless a way can be figured out to charge the students. The Board of Trustees has taken his initiative and raised the costs to students because they know that with student apathy the way it is, no one will complain. Since the only people who do complain are just trouble makers anyhow, there is really no reason to listen to them either. Issues for consideration at future board meetings include:

- 1) Our annual 10% tuition increase.
- 2) A cut in student benefits and services.
- 3) An increase in faculty/staff and trustee benefits (at student expense).
- 4) A new system for charging dorm students for repairs, that will ensure that ALL maintenance costs are paid for by the students, at least twice.

## reader opinion

### A positive influence?

Everyone can see that money being raised for charity is a good thing. But to what degree do the odds justify the means? The Phi Psi 500 is recognized for its unique method of raising charity funds by participants racing between six local bars. Hundreds of area residents, mainly university students, run around chugging at the bars. The runners get into a bit of a tussle with the streets with vomit, the funds do get collected. Let's face it, although the bars offered soft drinks this past weekend, their consumption was not emphasized. I don't know if you're aware of it or not, but the proceeds from this year's Phi Psi 500 went to the area's Big Brother Big Sister organization. I thought this society was formed and operated to help youths who needed other caring, concerned adults as positive influences in their lives. Intoxication is not positive. What ever happened to good, clean fundraising? Perhaps a sports-a-thon of some sort, i.e., climb the steps of Beaver Stadium-a-thon. Or the Phi Psi 500 could simply remain the same categories both for speed and for anything else, but the beer and bars is not an appropriate way of raising funds for charity.

Marjorie Kubiak, junior-pre-medicine and chemistry April 9

### Back seat drivers

In recent weeks certain decisions made by the Board of Trustees have been criticized by PSU students. These students have said that the Board of Trustees is out of touch with affairs on campus, doesn't care about the students and is allowing excessive charges to be levied as tuition, room and board. As a member of PSSHSDBT (Penn State Society of Second Guessers and Back Seat Drivers of the Board of Trustees), I feel that these criticisms deserve an answer. First I would like to address the issue of increased room and board fees. Those of you who live in the dorms know how hard it is to maintain the high quality of food and housing you presently enjoy. If you were to move off campus you would pay less for more, but you would also be living off campus. (Simple logic.) Costs for maintaining the dorms have risen over the last few years. Even though the costs of repairs are already over \$200,000, it is felt that you should pay more. Though 99 percent of the repairs done in the dorms are considered to be caused by student vandalism, and thus payable by the students, there is still that 1%. As for the telephones, even though Penn State does not own your telephones, there is no reason why they can't charge you for it. This year (1984), Penn State will lose around \$20,000 because of the break-up of the phone company. To alleviate this loss the following calculation was used: Dorm capacity is 12,500 students, times the money increase for this year, gives you \$100,450.00, or this year's loss plus interest. Please understand, the dorms are considered independent profit centers and thus they must operate at a profit. If the University were to absorb repairs or telephones the University would have to cut on other things. (Such as free

lunches for Nicaraguan insurgents). Another issue that the board has been criticized on lately is the credit union building in North. The building will be moved to one side of the quad as requested, but not because you students asked. You see, when the building was planned, the issue of parking was not thought about. The issue has been brought to the attention of the planners, and they agree with you — there will be a parking problem. Thus the rest of the area will (at a later date) be turned into a parking lot. As for such problems as water pressure, don't worry, they won't be fixed unless a way can be figured out to charge the students. The Board of Trustees has taken his initiative and raised the costs to students because they know that with student apathy the way it is, no one will complain. Since the only people who do complain are just trouble makers anyhow, there is really no reason to listen to them either. Issues for consideration at future board meetings include:

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## opinions



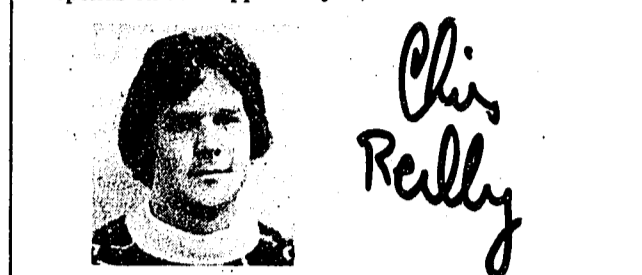
## reader opinion

### Ignorance is bliss

In light of the news media's extensive coverage of the recent fifth anniversary of the Three Mile Island accident, I would like to add a comment or three. As a senior nuclear engineering student (I graduate this semester), and having worked in the nuclear industry for two summers (for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and for Public Service Electric and Gas Co.), I feel that I am at least as knowledgeable about nuclear power generation as most of the news reporters are. The rejection of nuclear power by the public is quite simply a result of two factors. First is the news media's failure to accurately relay the facts to the public. The persistent exaggeration of nuclear-related news is understandable (though certainly not justifiable): "the worst accident in the history of commercial nuclear power" sells more papers than "loss of feedwater transient," right? Little can be done about this dilemma. I'm beginning to think likewise that little can be done about the second problem, the public's own ignorance. Everyone knows that radiation was released at the TMI incident. But how many people know (or admit) that a person gets much more radiation from one dental X-ray than anyone possibly could have gotten from TMI? The Rev. Jesse Jackson calls nuclear power a "threat to the human race." Little does he know that 10,000 Americans die each year due to air pollution from coal-fired plants. How many people did TMI kill? Zero. And I'm sure that no one would believe the fact that coal-fired plants release more radiation (in the form of radioactive radon gas, a decay product of the natural uranium in the coal) than nuclear plants do. And believe it or not, the huge cooling towers which are

## Vote today, and vote for change

The Pennsylvania Democratic primary is upon us, and with 195 delegates at stake, it is crucial for all three candidates. A victory for Gary Hart could turn the tide in his favor after the loss in New York, and a victory for Walter Mondale certainly wouldn't hurt his cause. Either way, the success of the two front-runners depends on the support of you, the voters.



I've never been one for political endorsements. After all, I have very little influence over the outcome of the primary, except for my vote. And it's my intention to urge you to vote, and vote for change. I feel that Reagan has forgotten the people who elected him, especially those who felt the crunch of the cutbacks in social programs. We can remind Ron that four more years of his policies would do us more harm than good. Speaking of his policies, I'd like to try and dispel some of the more popular myths that have been associated with Reaganomics. He has restored growth in the American economy, right? Wrong. Real growth in the gross national product has increased an anemic 2 percent per year, 60 percent of the rate during the Carter administration. Unemployment, while falling, is still high. (Reagan obviously hasn't been to Johnsonville lately.) Inflation has been lowered only because it was beaten into submission by unemployment, and according to The Wall Street Journal, 77 percent of the chief executives of large corporations expect a recession in the next two years.

Reagan also promised to cut the size of the federal government, yet the government's share of the GNP has increased by \$10 billion. The rate of growth of the federal work force has slowed, but government employment is up by almost 180,000 — most of those in the military building weapons with money we don't have. Remember when Reagan said that when his first term was over, people would be able to say that due to his economic policies, they'd be better off than they were four years ago? Well, that's not the case. According to a recent New York Times/CBS poll, only one-third of Americans feel they are better off. A survey based on income groups showed that for people earning less than \$20,000, antipathy is the response. For those who earn over \$20,000, his popularity rises with income. It appears that the rich get richer as a result of Reaganomics, while the poor are doomed to remain poor.

The attitudes in this country have to change if we are to achieve economic and social stability. Gary Hart offers us new ideas, Walter Mondale offers us experience, and Jesse Jackson, while not really in contention, has some good ideas of his own. Hart and Mondale would do well to listen to him once in a while. All three candidates offer a better choice than what we've presently got in the White House, and if we are to change the political attitudes of Americans, then we've got to do it through the vote. Whoever you choose to vote for, make sure you know where that person stands on the issues. Don't rely solely on television and newspapers for information about candidates. Look up voting records for the candidate on issues that concern you, or call the campaign headquarters for more information. But most importantly, get out and vote — you can make a difference. Chris Reilly is a senior majoring in journalism and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Since I am just breaking into the nuclear power production industry, I have very much to learn. Probably the single most difficult thing that I need to learn is how to bite my tongue. We asked our instructor in one of my courses what he does when confronted with biased journalists and ignorant radicals. His reply, "I've learned to bite my tongue."



## AGAINST ALL ODDS

COMING TO A PRIMARY NEAR YOU!

## the Collegian

Tuesday, April 10, 1984  
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## 'Twas the the day of the primary, and all through the state. . .

'Tis the day of the primary, and throughout Keystone state, most every democrat ready to vote for his candidate. "Pa." votes are not so many when compared to the eight that ran in the hawk-eyed Iowa state.



Erik Randolph

It had appeared from the start of the race that Mondale would lead without a contender keeping pace. Back then "Tip" O'Neill gave Fritz the

okay to run for him this coming November day. The AFL-CIO with other union groups in force indicated that Mondale is whom they choose to endorse. But things didn't go so smoothly, as you might surmise, because the New Hampshire results gave everyone a surprise. Senator Gary Hart's little-known face would emerge, with shocked Mondale in second, and John Glenn in third. New Hampshire proved too much for others too; in lieu of Hollings, Cranston, and Askew. The Massachusetts results were the main key, that reduced the race to the remaining three. Look first at Senator Glenn, that astronaut sort, the presidential mission he had to abort. McGovern, whom in '72 only Massachusetts did choose, dropped out only after

there he did lose. And that brings us up much to date, with only Fritz, Gary and Jesse left to debate. Look at Jesse Jackson, that black folk hero, who is still running though his chances are near zero. Remember his recent pilgrimage for peace, in which he obtained a Lieutenant's release? The bad for Jesse that event was too long past, because Jackson's popularity just could not last. And one ought to wonder of his diplomatic expertise, when realizing much of his funds come from Arabs overseas. Now left in the race are only a few, with Mondale in front and Hart as number two. On which side of each issue they stand's hard to say, because of all the mud-slinging games that they play. Fritz laughs at what Hart's "new" ideas have to offer, while Hart thinks Mondale's

"politics" belong in a coffin. Hart disdains U.S. presence in overseas turmoil, and thus rejects war over Middle East oil. Mondale, quick to criticize what Hart had just said, pointed out we have allies to protect instead. Hart said poverty is the Third World's only threat, to which Mondale added communism as something to fret. On arms control, Walter supports the nuclear freeze theme, but Gary prefers some build-down scheme. Both are for jobs and industrial-building policies, but only Hart was against the Chrysler loan guarantees. In international trade, Hart's against protectionism to the hilt, but Mondale would require American parts on any auto foreign built. Hart's against windfall profit taxes on big

oil, but wants a \$10 fee on crude from foreign soil. Fritz, however, claims the opposite is true, oil tariffs are wrong but windfall profit taxes will do. On through the states the key issues have been, but still Minnesota's Walter will take home the win. And as for as this November, when the big race will end, Mondale's chances hang on one unsuspected friend. Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson will decide the fate, of the Democratic party by that set election date. For if its Jackson's decision to run independent, Mondale will lose to the White House incumbent. Erik Randolph is a senior majoring in political science and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His column appears on alternate Tuesdays.

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