

editorial opinion

An old problem brought to light

By announcing the results of its best/not-so-best survey, the Undergraduate Student Government has pointed up once again the long-standing question of the value of teaching at the University.

Unquestionably, USG's attempt to identify instructors who stand out in the classroom and those who don't represents a concrete idea. Student evaluation of teaching capability is the only true measure of an instructor's classroom effectiveness; and therefore the quality of education.

But with only 2,500 students participating in the survey — no doubt a result of the usual student apathy — the results of the survey can be considered only mediocre, and certainly not representative.

While the results that did come in pointedly indicated some of the University's best and not-so-best instructors, the apparent lack of student interest diminished the survey's effectiveness and impact.

By tackling an academic issue, USG appealed to what should be of interest to every student. Unfortunately, it appears that even a better education cannot rouse most Penn State's from their seemingly endless apathy.

In an effort to put the results to some effective use, despite the low turnout, members of USG decided to recognize the 29 instructors who were overwhelmingly described as being outstanding, and give the names of those who were rated "very much

below normal standards" to their departments.

USG Vice President Beth Saylor said the number of students who cited the 13 instructors below standards was great enough to merit bringing them to the attention of department heads.

One of the instructors recognized in the top 29, Richard L. Januski, assistant professor of journalism, said the University needs to do more to reward good teachers to improve the quality of teaching.

"The only things that count for promotion and tenure are research and publication," he said.

The apparent lack of emphasis on teaching for promotion and tenure has been discussed repeatedly in academic arenas. And, it will continue to appear until the publish-or-perish problem professors here face is resolved.

USG's survey is a much needed means of recognizing the instructors at Penn State who have outstanding teaching capabilities — and those who don't. The survey is not the whole answer, though.

Until the University takes a more serious look at teaching for promotion and tenure purposes, the probability of improving classroom capabilities appears grim.

Whether or not the survey will improve the quality of education will be determined by whether or not University officials act upon the results.



the daily Collegian

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Alicia Swazy
Editor

Susan M. Melle
Business Manager

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Forum near you

Whatever happened to tasteful sponsorship? I see no purpose for these ads in the Collegian. We don't have to be blatant about our hedonism in a newspaper that represents us outside of State College. Visitors and alumni read the paper. Copies travel home on weekends where families may pick them up. I find it hard to believe the quality of sponsors has deteriorated to supporters and propagandists.

OOPS. I have just become living proof that people read Collegian ads.

Kim MacMullan, junior-marketing
April 5

reader opinion

Tasteless

Isn't it great to be able to open the paper at breakfast and see such uncommon moments captured in their climax — such as a car rolling over a human.

Concerning the photo on page 10 of the April 5 Collegian: tasteless.

Is TV violence no longer enough for us? Has our desire for the morbid and shocking gone beyond today's gore films? We need reality here. I vote to revive the gladiator fights myself.

Seriously — to the editor's responsible — with the variety of AP photos the Collegian receives, why this one? And if this was the only one available, why even bother to print it? Use a little taste.

Rhonda Bershek, sophomore-English
April 5

What's next?

First came the Semmel contraceptive supporters ad, complete with coupon. In logical progression, an at-home pregnancy test followed (in case we overlooked that coupon). On April 3, an ad for Shiek condoms appeared, complimented by a huge push for the May Playboy on April 4. After reading... pleasing and provocative features. Like Playmate Patty Duffek initiating the rites

of spring, I felt cause for concern.

At least I feel safe in that neither men nor women are identified as solely responsible for the consequences of sex. However, we don't need reminders that a wide range of carnal activity exists at Penn State. We're bombarded subliminally everyday with sexual innuendos. Is there no discretion? What's next? Photographs of brothers getting "poked" outside their dormitories? "Free Lance" running a special on posing nude by the Lion Shrine?

Lifestyle is a personal choice. Penn State sponsors a very good PCEP (peer contraceptive) program for this reason. Health Ed. designed to educate students about their bodies and sex drive, and certainly anything the course deletes can be learned from friends, photojournalists or magazines. (Catch the latest porn flick coming to the

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April 5

Imaginative leadership could help solve Arab-Israeli conflict

Editor's Note: The following is the third in a series of forums by Associate Professor Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr., on the continuing problems in the Middle East viewed through a historical perspective.

By ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT, JR.
Associate Professor of History
Chairman of the Middle East Studies Committee

The letters printed here lately about Israel and the Palestinians remind us that the Arab-Israeli conflict remains unresolved. Your correspondents' one-sided intransigence, all too representative of the opinions of many Israelis and Palestinians, suggests that the conflict is going to last for a long time.

The Palestinian question is older than nearly everyone now on the PSU faculty. The Arab-Israeli conflict has been around longer than almost the whole student population. Some experts ascribe nearly every other Middle East crisis to the Arab-Israeli conflict. I disagree. But we still need to know what it is.

forum

Essentially, the Arab-Israeli conflict is a contest between two nationalist movements, both having religious undertones. One movement is Zionism, or Jewish nationalism, the force behind the creation and maintenance of Israel.

Because Christians have been taught to regard Jews as a religious group, they often fail to see why there should be a Jewish nationalism, let alone a Jewish state. Although Judaism is a religion, with beliefs about God, the Cosmos, the Bible and personal ethics, it is also a system of rules and laws that seek to prescribe a comprehensive life style for observant Jews.

Although Jews have been scattered among other nations for most of their histo-

ry, their observance of these laws has helped them feel that they were one people. In modern times, with the rise of nationalism in Europe, Jews in some countries have suffered persecution and even annihilation. Many Jews responded by espousing political Zionism, the drive to set up a Jewish state in the land of Zion, or Israel, their historic homeland, others called it Palestine.

As one of your readers pointed out, there never was a state called Palestine. It was a geographic expression used mainly by Christians for the lands of the Bible. From 1516 to 1918 the region belonged to the Ottoman Empire.

Britain conquered Palestine during World War I. It later became a League of Nations mandate assigned to Britain, which had officially promised to support a Jewish national home in Palestine. The British government denied any plan to make Palestine a Jewish state, but many Zionists hoped to create one by bringing in Jewish settlers from Europe and America.

Even though Britain later turned out against Zionism and Nazi Germany destroyed most of Europe's Jews, the Zionists did set up the State of Israel in 1948, following a United Nations decision to partition Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs. This was a compromise solution which the Zionists accepted and most Arabs opposed. Zionism since 1948 has been the movement, mainly by Jews outside Israel, to support the Jewish state.

The other party to the dispute is Arab nationalism. This is the effort by the Arab-speaking peoples of the Middle East to create an independent and united Arab state, including Palestine. Although most Arabs are Muslims, some are Christians. Indeed, before Israel's creation, almost one million Arabs were Jewish. No more than one-sixth of all Muslims are Arabs. Arab nationalism is not Islam.

Arab nationalism began before World War I as a struggle by Syrian Christians and Muslims for independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aided by the British, notably "Lawrence of Arabia," the Arabs revolted

in 1916 against the Ottomans. By the end of World War I, the Ottoman Turks had been driven from Arabia, Syria, and Iraq. But Arab nationalism hopes were dashed when the Allies divided their lands into mandates. France took Syria and Lebanon, while Britain got Iraq and Palestine (later split to form what is now Jordan).

In Palestine, 92 percent of whose inhabitants in 1918 were Arabs, Britain's pledge to create a Jewish national home seemed to negate the people's national rights. As the number of Jewish settlers grew, so did the nationalism of the Arab Palestinians. So, too, did the support they got from other Arab countries, notably Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

In the late 1930s, the Palestinian Arabs rebelled against the British mandate and the influx of Jewish settlers from Europe. Pressured by other Arab countries, Britain decided to limit immigration. This angered the Zionists without calming the Arabs, who saw Palestine as their land.

By the end of World War II, the situation of the European Jews had become so serious that some Zionists turned to terrorism against the British to remove the immigration limits and to set up a Jewish state. But the Palestinians and other Arabs felt that they were being punished for Germany's persecution of the Jews. All the Arab countries opposed the UN plan to partition Palestine, arguing that the Arabs, two-thirds of its people, were being given less than half of its land.

To protect their rights, they vowed to fight against the creation of Israel. Divided by internal rivalries, they lost the war of 1948. In fact, the birth of Israel led to an Arab refugee problem, as many Palestinians fled from their homes and lands.

Once Israel was established, most countries recognized it as the Jewish state. But the Arab states refused to do so, arguing that Israel should have readmitted the Palestinian refugees. Israel responded that the refugees had departed voluntarily and that the Arab states had expelled their Jewish inhabitants, most of whom ended up in

together, the fact is that many actually are doing so. There are currently 650,000 Israeli Arabs and about 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Although Jews hold almost all power positions with Israel, Arabs increasingly dominate certain occupations, such as construction and transportation.

The potential ability of the Israeli Arabs to apply political leverage through their representatives in Israel's Knesset (parliament) may enable them to pressure future governments to make concessions toward peace with the Arab countries.

The Arabs states, too, must make concessions. Let them note that Egypt, through negotiations with Israel, recovered the Sinai, whereas no Arab state has yet succeeded in regaining lost lands in battle. If Syria wishes to recover the Golan Heights, or if Jordan wants a federation — as proposed by King Hussein in 1972 — with the West Bank and Gaza, let them offer to negotiate with Israel.

Those Palestinians who want to live at peace with the Israelis should have the option of returning to Israel, in accordance with the resolutions repeatedly passed by the U.N. General Assembly.

Furthermore, U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, endorsed by the Superpowers and by virtually all parties to the conflict, calls for mutual recognition, an end to all claims of belligerency, Israel's withdrawal from lands occupied in the 1967 war, and a settlement of the refugee problem. It is not a perfect solution, but it is the first step toward peace in the Middle East.

The policies now pursued by both sides are politically inept, economically ruinous, and militarily dangerous to themselves and, potentially, to their supporters. Let Israel, the Arab states, the Palestinians, the USSR, and the United States all come up with some better ideas and more imaginative leadership, so that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be relegated to the dustbin of history. And so peace will finally come to what once was called the Holy Land.

While many Jews and Arabs still claim that Israel and the Palestinians cannot live

reader opinion

All so simple

Regarding Manjula Saxena's article of March 30, sarcastically suggesting alternatives offered by the Hare Krishnas to world problems, I must first emphasize that Krishna Consciousness is not at all offering pretentious, pseudo-scientific simplicities.

"We are well aware that logical positivism has historically claimed exclusivity for the empiric-analytic method, so dominating the educational systems of the West that no alternative system of organizing the pursuit of scientific truth has even been suggested here."

"We are at the same time aware, though, of the fallacies of empiricism and induction and of the contradictions of scientism, that bluff of the part playing the whole whereby, as Whitehead observes, 'Modern philosophy has been ruined.'"

"Therefore by 'science' we certainly do not pretend to be a merely empirical science, but rather a discipline that adopts scientific structures of data accumulation and verification, providing instrumental injunctions, immediate data apprehension, and communal confirmation. The data realms of Krishna Consciousness, however, are not limited to gross sense objects or ideas."

"One thing properly understood by a discipline with access to more subtle data is the law of karma, the subtle effects which are produced by every action and which have a special relation to individual human will and its unaligned expressions in society."

"It is this which has always produced in humankind the concepts of Fate and Destiny, never completely supplanted by 'scientific' concepts of chance and necessity, and which moved Tolstoy to call kings 'the slaves of history,' observing that 'every action of theirs that seems to them an act of their own free will, is in an historical sense not free at all, but in bondage to the whole course of previous history.'"

"Even Machiavelli — no starry-eyed mystic — titled the twenty-fifth chapter of *The Prince*, 'What Fortune Can Effect in Human Affairs, and How to Withstand Her.'"

"The laws of karma and other essential knowledge are methodically explained in the more than fifty volumes of Sanskrit literatures translated by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, which have been very favorably received worldwide by hundreds of scholars, in light of which Ms. Saxena's facile observations must, unfortunately, appear as naive."

Actually, "it" is all so simple; unfortunately we are not. Necessarily disingenuous in our fantasy of independence from God, we are unable to "simply" glorify Krishna and depend upon Him as a part naturally depends upon the Whole. Instead, we seek our own illusory glories: "Did you read that clever article by So-and-so? Isn't she a real Third-World ironic wit!"

Nonetheless, our lives, devoid of substantial truth, will be filled by the unfortunate results of spiritual ignorance, which can never be neutralized by our stylistic diversions and intelligent games. "I know, I know," replies the Devil in Mann's Doctor Faustus, "parody. Yes, it might be a merry game if it were not so melancholy in its aristocratic nihilism. Would you expect much happiness or greatness from such subterfuge?"

Stamba da, adviser-Krishna Yoga Society
March 30

Different interpretation

I'd like to take this opportunity to clear up some of the misconceptions Mr. R. Thomas Berner evidenced in his April 5 response to The Daily Collegian editorial (A no-win situation) of March 30.

Mr. Berner listed four assumptions allegedly made by the Collegian which he considered "faulty" and then offered facts that were seemingly inconsistent with those assumptions and would therefore invalidate them.

I'd like to list those same assumptions, and then offer a slightly different interpretation of the "facts." (I want to apologize to Mr. Berner for copying his style, but originality was never one of my strong points.)

Assumption No. 1: The Insetra brothers were prosecuted because they were students.

"The fact is that the Insetra brothers are property owners in the borough of State College and are expected to follow the law just like any other property owner."

Assumption No. 2: Enforcement of the law is an attempt by State College residents to dictate the actions of their student neighbors.

"The fact is enforcement of the law is an attempt to ensure that our neighborhoods are reasonable places for everyone to live in. I can't believe that 35,000 students at this campus would rather scream the night away than study."

I think that Mr. Berner is quite right, but what the hell do 35,000 screaming students have to do with a zoning ordinance? The answer, of course, is nothing. I find it very disturbing that a Borough Council member can be so seriously misinformed.

Assumption No. 3: The bad actors are students; students are bad actors.

"All I'm saying is that every time there's a complaint in a neighborhood, don't assume a student is the source of the problem."

"This is very nice suggestion, although I'm not sure I understand how it relates to the Collegian's editorial. But of course we all know that this is exactly what happens in practice. If you don't believe it, check the Borough Council minutes."

Assumption No. 4: "A string of unrelated events constructed with a few assumptions can easily be molded into a false accusation."

"The fact is that the people who developed the evidence against the Insetra brothers didn't do it overnight and didn't collect it without cause."

Once again, I can't argue with Mr. Berner. I'm sure the neighbors were spying on the Insetra brothers for quite a while, and for a very specific reason. But this misses the point. The point is that the potential for mistrust and animosity among neighbors is inherent in the newly legislated situation and this does not bode well for community relations.

This is an important issue for both Town and Gown and must be kept free from misconceptions. If we are to achieve the better relations between students and home-

Drop the personal judgment

This letter is in response to both Reginald Arford and Steve Diano, who are the main persons involved in the West Halls Radio controversy. Having been the general manager this year, I would like each party to realize that blaming each other for the current problem is useless, for both parties are equally responsible.

Steve Diano claims that "the room the station was located in was locked due to the impossibility of running the station without operable turntables." This, I believe, is very far from the truth, for the only people with keys to the station were myself, my assistant, Diano, and two ARHS representatives.

I was told at the time in question that all keys were being revoked, and the station was being closed for the rest of the year. The station management had encountered Diano's bureaucratic red tape all year, but was totally powerless to prevent the action that Diano, as president of West Halls, took to close the station.

Reginald Arford, on the other hand, felt a burning desire to wrest control of the station from the West Halls council. Though this may have been a good idea, the way in which Arford conducted his campaign was to antagonize the West Halls council, using threats and a knowledge of the area's constitution to achieve his skillfully designed power play. Communication, however, is something that Mr. Arford refused to consider during all of his activities.

Having spoken to many council members, as well as Diano and Arford, it is obvious that both sides would like to resolve this problem. All that is necessary to achieve this resolution is for Arford and Diano to work out their personal judgments of each other, and work on resolving the main problem — that of getting WHR back on the air.

Rich Glass, junior-business logistics
April 6

ATTENTION

COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJORS — BUSINESS MAJORS —

The Kinney Shoe Corporation will be interviewing on Campus April 18th and April 19th. Located in Harrisburg, PA, this Major Retailer offers entry level positions in an aggressive, state-of-the-art environment that includes:

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COME SEE US!!!!!!
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April 28-29

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VETERANS

The Penn State University
Veterans Organization Meeting
Wednesday, April 11, 8:00

227 E. Nittany Vet's House
Refreshments Served

Upcoming Event: April 28-29
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LA-Career Planning-84

Thursday, April 12
In the HUD
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Is your education preparing you for life as well as a career? Find out how a Liberal Arts education fits into your future at the Liberal Arts Career Planning Day.

- Opening forum (12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. HUB Assembly Room)

Herald P. Fahringer (1950 graduate in Arts and Letters; 1951 graduate Speech Communication) now a trial attorney for Lipsitz, Green, Fahringer, Roll, Schuller & James. Defended the Claus von Bulow and Jean Harris appeals.

Paul Adams (1967 graduate in Economics) now president of First American Bank of Maryland, Silver Spring.

Darla Wilson, college recruiter, management employment division of AT&T Information Systems.

- Enjoy informal conversation with alumni representing many diversified professions in the social services, government, law, communications, languages, health professions, and business. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. HUB Ballroom)
- Talk with representatives from the Career Development and Placement Center. Learn more about Penn State's Alumni Association and what it can mean for you. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. HUB Ballroom)

LA-Career Planning-84

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