

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Thursday, April 12, 1984

## editorial opinion

### The current draft of the noise ordinance is not music to the ears

Students, borough officials and neighborhood associations will again have a chance to debate one of this town's hottest issues — the noise ordinance.

Tonight's State College Planning Commission meeting offers a perfect opportunity for all groups involved with revising the State College Borough noise ordinance to iron out their differences — once and for all.

But if the results of this meeting are similar to past meetings with the Borough Council and the special noise ordinance task force, very few people will be pleased.

Throughout the last six months, various groups have debated the noise issue. At the first public meeting of the Borough Council in October, the noise issue was discussed. Student representatives and neighborhood groups were unhappy with some of the preliminary decisions made by the council.

The council then created a task force comprised of four acoustics experts. The experts on the task force allowed anyone interested in the noise issue to submit recommendations to the task force. Several groups, including a coalition of student groups, made written and verbal recommendations. The task force then would submit its recom-

mendations to the planning commission and a new noise ordinance would be drawn up.

Sounds easy, right? It wasn't. Several problems occurred as soon as the task force was appointed. First, there was — and still is today — a misunderstanding about what the responsibilities of the special task force were — or should be.

Mark Foley, of the Organization for Town Independent Students, said it was his understanding that the four acoustics experts served as consultants whose job was to collect information about decibel levels and take any recommendations other groups proposed. He believed the task force would not be responsible for drawing up the final noise ordinance proposal.

But Mark Henry, the borough's health officer, said the acoustics experts were responsible for hearing all written and oral testimony and making a decision as to the best recommendation to the planning commission.

The second problem occurred when the task force began to review the original draft of the noise ordinance. Somehow, the wording of the ordinance was changed without any prior notice to council members, students or neighborhood groups.

Before the committee began re-

view of the technical aspects of the ordinance, two conditions had to be met in order to charge someone with noise violations. The ordinance read that in order for a group to be charged with a noise violation, the noise had to be "declared to be excessive noise or annoying to a person of ordinary sensibilities."

In the original ordinance the two clauses were connected by the word "and" to denote that both conditions had to be met.

But under the new draft, the word "or" was inserted between the two clauses. Although it seems like a technicality, that word changes the meaning of the ordinance. With an "or," police need only one condition to charge someone with a noise violation.

The student groups were upset with this change since it made the new definition of a noise violation more stringent. What's more, Foley said he is unhappy because no one was notified of the change.

And no one can answer how the change in terminology occurred.

Mark Henry said he "does not know how it got in there."

"Somehow that 'or' got in there — it was not done purposely," Henry said. "The task force reviewed it. It's gone. It's past. I can't change what happened."

Clearly, if the task force wanted to change the terminology they should have made the change known in advance.

The third problem rests with the amount of student input allowed in the debate.

The Interfraternity Council, the Organization for Town Independent Students and the Undergraduate Student Government submitted a combined proposal to the task force. The proposal addresses key issues and problems with the original noise ordinance draft and also recommends changes in the terminology.

Both Foley and Emil Parvensky, USG president, feel that their proposal was not given enough attention.

"We were under the impression we were working with the committee all along," Foley said. "The issue is the way we've been treated and the way in which we've been perceived."

Finally, the student groups believe that the task force should not have been permitted to be the decision-making body because they are not qualified to make policy decisions.

Henry said it was the borough resident. But with mutual respect and cooperation, all groups endeavoring to change the ordinance can make State College more harmonious.

Three weeks ago the task force made its recommendations which

are now to be discussed at tonight's meeting.

The students believe that none of their recommendations were adopted and feel ignored. Mark Henry said the acoustics experts based their recommendations on what they believed were the best parts of all proposals submitted.

The debate goes on. Whether the task force should be allowed to make policy decisions no longer matters.

What does matter is tonight's meeting. Parvensky said the student groups face a more difficult task in trying to convince the planning commission to add the changes for which the students are fighting. Henry said the commission will hear any changes that any group wishes to make in the ordinance.

Both the planning commission and the student groups should be urged to put past differences behind and concentrate on drafting a noise ordinance that will please the most people.

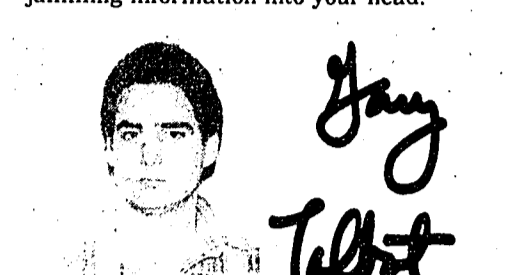
The new noise ordinance will not be able to satisfy each State College resident. But with mutual respect and cooperation, all groups endeavoring to change the ordinance can make State College more harmonious.

Three weeks ago the task force made its recommendations which

are now to be discussed at tonight's meeting.

## When you bomb a test, break things to release that tension

So you stayed up all last night studying. You did all the homework, read all the material and feel so confident that in the waning moments before the exam you calmly read the paper instead of frantically jarring information into your head.



You know that you're prepared for this big test. It could make or break your grade in this course but you feel pretty good about it. As the exam is passed out, you retain the posture of James Bond eagerly accepting another mission. No problem, let's get this show on the road.

After snatching a paper off the top of the pile you confidently glance over all the questions. Suddenly you get a panicky feeling in your stomach not unlike the one you had when you were about to go off the high dive for the first time.

The pounding, rhythmic beat of your heart can be heard three rows over and confusion scatters your brain as you gasp out loud. Looking around, too scared to be embarrassed, you notice the person next to you scribbling answers at the speed of light with a knowing grin on his face.

In the back of the room a couple of people have the strange look of a cat that was just let out of a mailbox, but this does little to console you. "Maybe there'll be a 40 point curve," you feebly try to convince yourself.

Getting back to the test you try to decipher what appears to be the wrong exam and desperately ask yourself, "Am I in the right room?" Another quick glance around dispels that rash notion. "Get a grip!" you demand of yourself. After a deep, quavering breath you look it over carefully one more time and spend the remaining 15 minutes scribbling down answers that seem to be related to what is being asked.

After the test is over the confusion fades and anger surges into every part of your drained body. It builds up like a rolling ball of snow until you feel like a crazed maniac. People stop talking in the hallway and jump aside as you storm out of the building and down the sidewalk.

A friend cheerfully says hello and you let out a grunt that would intimidate the Incredible Hulk. Squirrels scurry up trees as you approach. You're so mad that the Hare Krishna guy doesn't dare show literature in your face. You get home with amazing speed, crash down the door, stalk into the room and . . . Wait a minute. Hold it right there!

This is the critical moment. What you do next may very well affect your mental stability. There are basically two choices, suppression or release.

An attempt at the cool, collected, mature method of suppressing your ire would include calming yourself down, pretending that it doesn't bother you, and scolding yourself for not studying properly. You might tell yourself, "It's all my fault and I'll just have to study harder next time."

If that works you're in trouble. There's no way at all that anger can be diluted completely and it will come back to haunt you. More than likely it will be a totally ineffective remedy and will bring on depression and an extension of your grief. Nightmares are a definite possibility.

For these reasons I recommend skipping choice number one altogether and proceeding directly to choice number two, a complete, uninhibited freak-out of large scale proportion. It is the only rational way to deal with the situation.

This impulsive action can take many forms that are equally effective but not as equally acceptable. It is a good idea to stay reasonably within the law in what you are about to do. Regardless, you must find a direction for the anger. It comes down to this: You can direct it towards yourself, someone else, or inanimate objects.

Unleashing anger upon oneself is definitely the worst way to go. In effect what you are doing is trading pain for more pain, similar to tossing a hot potato from one hand to the other. Chances are you've already suffered enough. Furthermore, it could prove quite embarrassing explaining a self-

inflicted injury to others. In addition, an act such as repeatedly banging your head against the wall could cause aesthetic or even structural damage to your room.

This in turn could result in increased dorm damage or loss of a much needed security deposit. In any case this type of action does little to make you feel better. It is therefore wise to avoid this route altogether as it is sure to fail in cleansing the body of this turbulent wrath. Practically speaking, it's about as effective as taking a bath in the Hudson River.

On the other hand, verbally abusing all people within earshot can be infinitely more satisfying. Beating up your roommate would be an option if you felt that a pizza and a coke would mend the rift.

However, victimizing other people will evoke repercussions that in turn will further prolong the agony. It's entirely likely that they will get you back either immediately or in the near future. Once again the problem lingers on. In the end there's only one way to go. Specifically, you must abuse or destroy inanimate objects.

One of my personal favorites is the destruction of the textbook that is involved in the conspiracy. Simply heaving it as hard as you can at the nearest wall or on the floor is immensely gratifying. If you are especially mad, kicking it around repeatedly should also be included.

For the inhumanely obsessed, death by slow torture is a good idea. One word of caution however. These books may cost a

fortune but they cannot take even the slightest abuse without permanent damage. Be prepared to fix them later.

Textbooks aren't the only objects that are available for this mission of destruction. One of the best qualities of this method is the infinite supply of victims. However some items make for better outlets than others.

Look for items that break easily. Nothing is more frustrating than viciously throwing something against the wall only to have it come up unscathed. A tremendous feeling of impotence could result, only compounding the problem.

Conversely, the whole concept is to develop a feeling of dominating power and significance. You want to instill fear in others and demonstrate that you're not going to take this crap. In this respect, destroying large fragile items offers the greatest pleasure and often total release of this raging anger. Ultimately it may take a lamp through the television to do the trick.

Whatever the means, one thing is sure. After you complete this ritual you will feel much better. The pressure has been totally released through furious rebellion and you suddenly feel surprisingly calm. Now you can go out and party with a clear mind.

Gary Talbot is a junior majoring in civil engineering and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.



## the daily Collegian

Thursday, April 12, 1984  
©1984 Collegian Inc.  
Alicia Swasy Editor Susan M. Melle 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, 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.

## reader opinion

### Dancing in Germany

I am a Penn State student now studying abroad in West Germany for the 1984 Spring Semester. It was an opportunity I had, so I jumped at it, but I naturally had to give up a few things in order to do it.

The single event that I have missed so far, or will miss before the semester is over, that almost kept me from going was the IFC Dance Marathon. I have danced in it the last two years and hope to again next year, but this year I was not able to do so — much to my regret.

A number of mine sent me The Daily Collegian headlines and pictures of the marathon from Monday, Feb. 29 and once again I realized that I had missed something special to me.

It's too late now, and I wouldn't have changed my decision to go to Europe anyway — but I wanted to write the people who danced it, and especially those who organized it and made it happen, to let them know they are appreciated even from this far away.

I hope they all felt the unity, the good will, and the determination I felt and now realize that if it hadn't been so trying, it wouldn't be such an accomplishment. The "belonging in the hands of competent administrators" strongly disagree.

Competent administrators still make mistakes and sometimes cannot anticipate problems such as the moving of the Credit Union. Students input can improve these decisions. Dr. Jordan has shown openness to change and new policies which only makes it easier for student government to accomplish its goals.

Kenneth Reeves, graduate-meteorology March 26

### Active student government

David Klingner's column of March 29 brought up some good points about student government but I must disagree on several.

Speaking from years of experience, The Undergraduate Student Government does have problems but they do not extend from too many campaign promises unkept. While the students aware of USG are disappointed when candidates' promises do not materialize, the normal student does not remember what was promised last year.

When I was vice president of USG in 1981-82, we did not "attack outside enemies." We worked with administrators, alumni and student organizations to help benefit the University.

Students organized against financial aid reduction, SOPAR, became one of the most successful group efforts at the University in years. We did not expect to eliminate all financial aid cuts but we had to do them as much as possible to insure some students could return to school.

Not all of our platform projects worked out as well as SOPAR but at least we tried to do everything we outlined. Some of the projects failed because students showed an unanticipated lack of confidence in their government.

Finally, Mr. Klingner points out that policy making "belongs in the hands of competent administrators." I strongly disagree. Competent administrators still make mistakes and sometimes cannot anticipate problems such as the moving of the Credit Union. Students input can improve these decisions. Dr. Jordan has shown openness to change and new policies which only makes it easier for student government to accomplish its goals.

Kenneth Reeves, graduate-meteorology March 26

## The conscience of a fiscal conservative — freeze the budget

Politics is supposed to be about making choices and setting priorities. America's politicians have little taste for these tasks anymore. And that is the main reason why the federal government is facing a \$180 billion deficit this year and for several years to come.

The federal budget is, above all, a political document. Beneath the technical language and the charts, it is a statement about how power is apportioned in this country. Efforts to balance the budget by tinkering with entitlement formulas here and loophole closings there will never work for two reasons.

First, this approach will inevitably run afoul of countless constituency groups who have the political muscle to protect their share of the national pie. And second, the deficit problem is simply too large to be significantly altered by scattered savings in the low billions of dollars.

What is required, I believe, is a completely new and daring course of action — an across-the-board federal budget freeze that would remain in effect until revenues finally catch up with spending.

In order to have any hope of being "sold" politically, such a freeze would have to reach down to the cabinet-level departments. For example, allocations for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Education, etc. would continue to be budgeted at the same relative levels for the duration of the budget freeze. Priorities on spending within each department would be allowed to fluctuate, subject to necessary congressional approval.

Special legislation freezing the automatic growth of entitlement programs would be the hardest part of this package to secure. However, the overall freeze in federal spending would help to accomplish this difficult objective in one vitally important way. It would help set a different "tone" for the entire budget debate.

A sense of shared sacrifice would allow the federal budget to be seen (and dealt with) as an organic whole rather than just the sum of competing parts. And since a freeze in all major categories of federal spending would, obviously, prevent decreases as well as increases, it would serve one other purpose as well. It would eliminate all bona-fide complaints about one group's favorite program being cut while another group's is being increased.

I stipulate "bona-fide" complaints because, in budget parlance, the word "cut" is frequently used in a misleading (and sometimes demagogic) way. A cut in spending should properly refer to an actual reduction in spending (e.g., from \$100 million to \$90 million). However, the word "cut" is often used, improperly, to refer simply to a lower

level of increase in spending (e.g., a planned increase from \$100 million to \$120 million being scaled back to \$110 million).

How would the federal budget freeze look in terms of actual dollars? The chart, released by the federal government's Office of Management and Budget, provides information on federal spending, revenues and the resulting deficits for fiscal years 1980-1989. (A fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.)

Four of the fiscal years, 1980-83, have been completed. The current fiscal year runs from Oct. 1, 1983 to Sept. 30, 1984. Final figures for this fiscal year as well as for the five remaining fiscal years, 1985-89, are based on OMB projections.

The numbers are sobering, to say the least. Let us assume that the 1984 deficit projection holds up when the fiscal year ends in five and one-half months. That will mean that during the first half of this decade, the federal government will have amassed deficits totaling \$607 billion.

Under the current estimates for fiscal years 1985-89, \$812 billion more in federal deficits are scheduled to be rung up. If these projections are anywhere near accurate (and some sources say they are much too optimistic) that would mean a total of \$1.42 trillion in federal deficits for the decade of the 1980s. That's \$1.42 trillion added to the national debt — more than had been accumulated during all of the previous years of our history.

There is simply no amount of increased taxation that can even come close to make up for this staggering revenue shortfall. Besides, our taxes are already much too high, at all income levels. The solution must

come on the spending side of the ledger. A federal spending freeze at the current level of \$54 billion would produce a projected deficit of \$109 billion in the 1985 fiscal year as opposed to the current OMB estimate of \$130 billion. If the budget freeze was extended to 1986, the deficit would fall to \$39 billion rather than the projected \$177 billion. And, by 1987, the freeze would actually yield a surplus of \$4 billion instead of another deficit of \$180 billion.

By then, with fiscal sanity restored, the federal government would again have the "luxury" of allowing a modest increase in spending. Perhaps a start could even be made on paying off the national debt. (When was the last time you heard anyone raise that subject?) Even with the budget freeze,

### The Federal Budget

Fiscal year	Spending	Revenues	Deficit
1980	577	517	60
1981	657	599	58
1982	728	618	110
1983	796	601	195
1984 (est.)	854	670	184
1985 (est.)	925	745	180
1986 (est.)	992	815	177
1987 (est.)	1,068	888	180
1988 (est.)	1,130	978	152
1989 (est.)	1,184	1,060	124

(in \$ billions)

however, these decisions would be three years down the road.

A nation's economic strength is as important a component of its national security as is its military strength. The current deficit projections are a loaded pistol pointed at America's future prosperity and her ability to meet commitments at home and abroad.

We have all heard a great deal of talk during the last couple of years about the need for a nuclear weapons freeze. But the freeze that America needs the most right now involves the Department of the Treasury, not the Department of Defense.

John R. Nordell, Jr. is a graduate student in American history and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

**Competitive values in used cars**

1982 Datsun King Cab 4x4, fully equip'd, 26,000 mi., white ext. \$7995  
 1981 Ford Escort L Station Wagon, A/C, automatic trans, P/S, 16,000 mi. \$5150  
 1978 Dodge Royal Sportman Window Van, two tone ivory 50,000 mi. Automatic, power steering, Air Conditioning, Very Nice \$4495  
 1983 Maxima 4 Dr. Dark brown metallic w/ leather int., fully loaded, electrical sunroof, power windows, cruise control, stereo cassette, alloy wheels. New Mercedes trade in \$2300 less than a new one. \$10,800  
 1977 VW Rabbit 4 Door \$3495  
 1980 Honda 4 Door S.W., only 35,000 mi., 5 spd., radial tires, very nice. \$4995  
 1973 VW Bug very good shape, one local owner. \$2495  
 1982 Toyota Supra, Power windows, A/C, stereo, electronic radio with equalizer, automatic, alloy wheels, burgundy with leather int., fully loaded. \$10,800  
 1980 Datsun King Cab Pick-up, Red ext. 56,000 mi., 5 spd. \$4695

1981 Mercedes Benz 300D 4 Dr. automatic trans. 55,000 mi., silver ext. \$2680  
 1980 VW Vanagon, Two tone beige and yellow with auxiliary gas heater, four speed, radial tires and stereo cassette \$6995  
 1981 GMC 4x4 Pickup: every piece of equipment including Moyn's Power Angle Piv. save thousands on this one \$5495  
 1983 Toyota Celica G.T. Liftback 5 spd., A/C, stereo cassette, cruise control, electric sunroof, power windows, power locks, alloy wheels, only 19,000 miles. \$10,200  
 1982 Ford Escort Hatchback, 4 cylinder, 4 speed, med. S.O.L.B. with matching interior \$4495  
 1979 Toyota Corolla Four Door, Economical 5 speed, radial tires, grey with a black vinyl interior. \$3895  
 1983 Honda Civic 4 Dr. Blue w/ cloth int., 5 spd., factory stereo cassette. This car has ONLY 7,000 mi., so still carries a factory warranty \$7395

**Datsun** **Leitzinger Imports** **Mercedes Benz**  
 3220 W. College Ave.  
 238-2447

# WQWK ROCKS

# PENN STATE at 97 fm

## LaVie CONTEST!

**JUNIORS:** Sign up for your senior portrait by April 13 and be eligible to WIN!

**1st Prize:** \$15.00 Gift Certificate from Lion's Pride

**2nd Prize:** Penn State Mug from the Student Book Store

**3rd Prize:** \$8.00 Gift Certificate for a hanging plant from Plants by Suzanne

And many other prizes donated by:  
 Action Sports, Asterisk, Dairy Queen, Family Clothesline, Hummel Jewelers, My Hero, Record Ranch, University Book Centre, and Your Father's Mustache

**Drawing:** April 13

## 1984 EE candidates (BS, MS, PhD)

You're only weeks away from receiving the reward for your efforts. There's still time to . . .

## Learn What's Happening at Harris

Harris Corporation is a \$1.8 billion Fortune 200 with a worldwide reputation for superior communication and information systems.

The RF Communications Group of Harris is the technology leader in the design, manufacture and installation of sophisticated HF and VHF/UHF radio communication systems. Rapid expansion and several new product developments have created additional opportunities for EE graduates to join this long established, yet high-growth organization at our Rochester, New York facilities.

Before you decide where to begin your career, we strongly believe that you owe it to yourself to learn about our openings and the benefits of both a Harris career and the Rochester area. You'll find the living hard to beat—with freedom from urban pressures and pollution, plentiful housing at reasonable rates, leading colleges and universities, year-round recreational and cultural attractions, excellent restaurants. You'll soon discover why Rochester was ranked #1 in quality of life in a recent survey.

**ACT NOW!** Send your resume or complete this mini-resume and forward to Ann Francis, Dept. 650, Harris RF Communications Group, 1680 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610. An Equal Opportunity Employer m/f/h/v

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE PT. AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE CONTACT ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 BEST HRS./DAYS TO CALL YOU \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEGREE LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURSE SPECIALIZATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 LIST ANY RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDICATE ANY OTHER HARRIS DIVISION WITH WHICH YOU MAY HAVE INTERVIEWED \_\_\_\_\_  
 We will respond to you within one week after receipt.

**HARRIS**  
 IF IT'S HAPPENING IN ELECTRONICS,  
 IT'S HAPPENING AT HARRIS.