

opinions

12
The Daily Collegian
Friday, Sept. 7, 1984

editorial opinion

Leave the field for the athletes

"I hope peer pressure and general good sense will take hold of the students."
— Herb Schmidt, director of athletic operations

This weekend, college football once again returns to campus. It's time to get out the blue and white pom-poms, the Penn State buttons, the food for tailgates...

It's also time to recall the damage caused during last year's football season when over-enthusiastic fans rushed the football field to tear down Beaver Stadium's goal posts.

The athletic department spent about \$9,500 just to replace the goal posts torn down during three games last year. And according to Schmidt, the department had to spend an additional \$1,000 last year to have the posts painted and set into the field.

Schmidt said the money to replace the goal posts was generated by the department through gate receipts and television contracts. However, the students also paid for the damage by forfeiting \$4,500 offered to them by the athletic department if the posts were not destroyed.

Head Football Coach Joe Paterno also pledged to personally donate \$500 to a scholarship fund for needy students if fans refrained from any more destructive action.

Schmidt said the department had considered replacing the aluminum goal posts with cheaper, wooden ones, but decided the possible splintering of the posts would cause even more problems.

The goal posts were not the only objects to be damaged in the stampede onto the field. At least four students last year were injured seriously enough on the field to require medical treatment, said David Stormer, director of University safety. Other stu-

dents received minor cuts and bruises. The occurrence of "football field injuries" last year was not unique to Penn State. A Harvard University freshman, 18-year-old Margaret Cimino, was critically injured when she and about 500 other students rushed onto the Yale Bowl field to tear down that stadium's goal posts after a Harvard victory. Cimino is still under medical treatment today for neurological injuries sustained in that accident.

Fortunately, none of the injuries in Beaver Stadium have been as serious as that one — yet. But it should not take a major catastrophe on the field to stop this irresponsible and expensive show of support for the team.

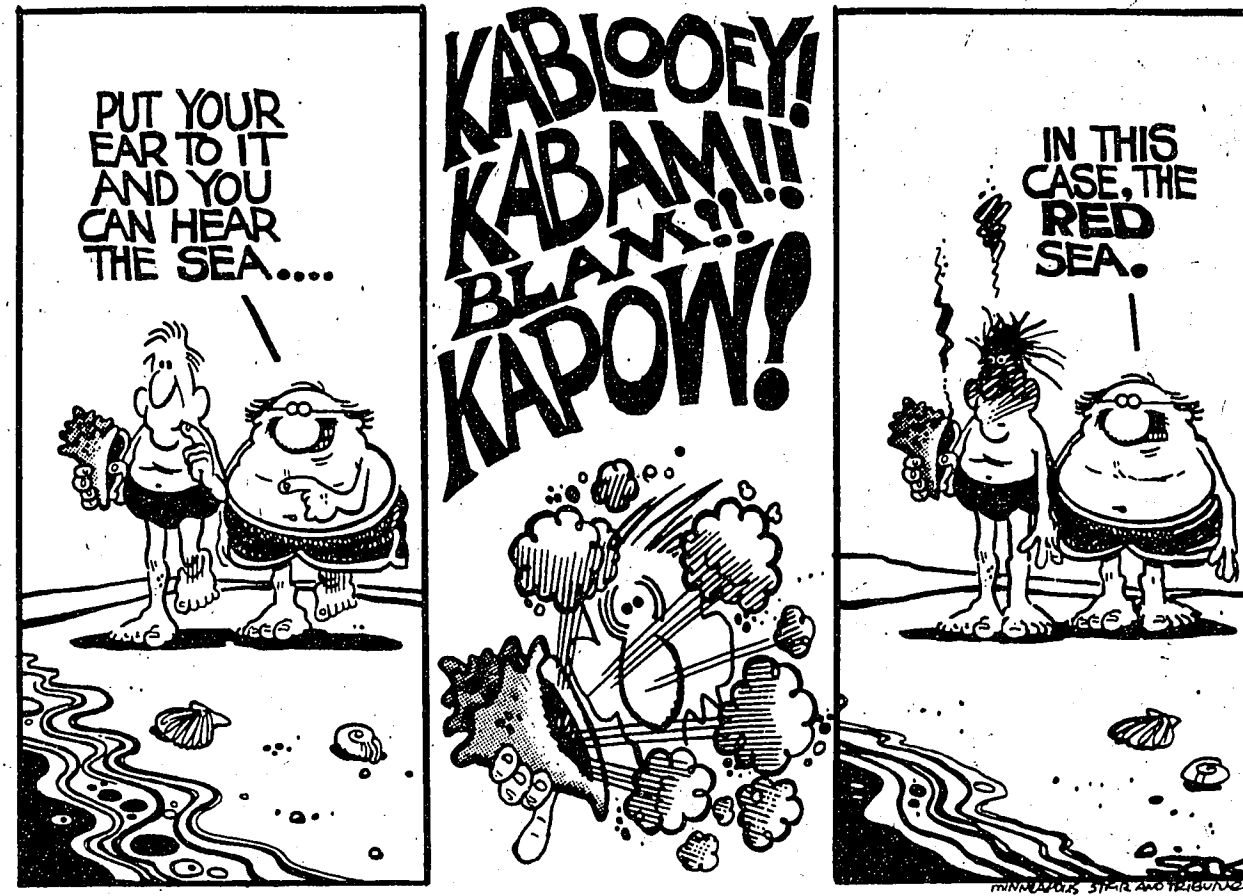
This year, the University has posted the field with "no trespassing" signs, and state police officers will be on hand in the stands and on the field to control the crowds, Stormer said. Unauthorized people on the field will be subject to arrest and prosecution.

Stormer also said the University will initiate the use of videotape on the field to help identify offenders.

But both Stormer and Schmidt say they hope reason will prevail and that arrests will be used only as a last resort.

Avoiding arrest should be simple for fans, as long as they stay off the football field and away from the goal posts when the football game is over. And at the same time, they can avoid the expenses and, more importantly, the injuries which will surely occur if the goal posts are torn down again.

Perhaps there is no better way of spending a cool September day than watching a Penn State football game. But let's watch the game from the stands and leave the field for those who rightfully belong on it — the athletes.



reader opinion

Tragic element

As we enter the 1984-85 football season, I would like to take this opportunity to note that Penn State's football program is a source of great pride to the University, its students, alumni, and friends. Ours is a nationally recognized and respected program that has been developed through much hard work and dedication over the years. Penn State football is an asset unqualed at other universities.

The recent trend toward tearing down goal posts after football games has not been good for intercollegiate football. Such behavior introduces an unfortunate and sometimes tragic element into the festivities which are so much a part of college football. Tearing down the goal posts can result in serious injuries to innocent bystanders. We had a number of such incidents occur on our campus during the 1983-84 season, although none were as serious as the tragic injuring of Margaret Cimino at the Harvard-Yale game last year.

It is my hope that we will determine this year that the practice of tearing down goal posts is a trend which has passed and which will not tarnish the fine spirit and tradition of Penn State football this season.

We look forward to an exciting, successful, and safe football season for the 1984-85 academic year.

Bryce Jordan, president-The Pennsylvania State University
Sept. 3

He's America!

You are right, Mr. Smith ("Giving up chewing gum to save a quarter so you can eat caviar," Sept. 5). Ignorance is bliss, but I am certain that you already know. Rather than spending your tax refund on "yeast urine," maybe you should have enrolled in a Philosophy of Logic course.

As for your definition of a middle class income (\$13,000), I suppose I'm extremely wealthy (which simply is not true). And from your definition of a moderately wealthy family, I must be as poor as a church mouse (which is equally untrue). However, one thing is true. I am a helluva lot better off than I was four years ago, and so is the majority of this country.

Uncle Ronny put the economy back on track, reduced unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and brought respect and national pride back to the forefront of international relations. Under his leadership, not one inch of free soil has fallen to the Communists. Once again, I am proud to say — I am American.

So Uncle Ronny didn't reduce the national debt, big deal — no one can (at least not in four years). Do you think Mondale can? He can't even pick a running mate.

Yes, Uncle Ronny has made America great again! Oh Watt, Burford, and Lavelle weren't the greatest, but what about Bert Lance, Ferraro, and those pathetic four years of national despair and dishonor under Carter and Mondale? Sure, we all make mistakes, but the Democrats are a bunch of circus clowns (just take a look at Tip O'Neill).

My fellow Americans, let me make one thing perfectly clear: Fool me once, shame on you — Fool me twice,

Garden of Eden

There is a place in the inner city of New York called the "Garden of Eden" where one free-thinking man has given 20 years of his lifetime to planting and nurturing a flower and vegetable garden on the amphitheater left by the foundation of a long-forgotten, but once modern 10-story office building.

This small place is used freely by the urban residents around it and loved by those who only pass by it. Now the surrounding area is to be renovated by the city government to construct new buildings to further the progress of mankind. The garden will be torn out and paved as a new foundation area — not a great loss perhaps, except for the spirit and minds of those who knew it.

Such a place is the campus greenhouse area of Penn State University, one of the few remnants of the charm that once hallmarked the Penn State campus milieu. Surely any plans for more high-rise construction to serve the campus can be located elsewhere so this small garden may remain.

W. A. Wertz, PSU Class of 1950
Tyrone, PA
Aug. 31

opinions

Deflation: Lower prices and higher productivity

While politicians are away, hashing ideologies, garnering votes and promising everything to everyone, economists will play — with numbers, that is.

Current debate in the economics world centers around why inflation hasn't yet taken off.

Yet, some supply-side economists say prices may be falling in a deflationary trend. In *The Wall Street Journal*, for example, Alan Reynolds of Polyconomics Inc., an economics research firm, notes that "gold and commodity futures (such as aluminum, copper, some clothing and some agricultural goods) have declined 20 percent since last fall."

Also, the U.S. dollar remains strong — not just the fault of huge government deficits — at home and abroad. Typically, the dollar begins a downward trend as inflation is expected to rear its ugly head. "No inflation in world history has been presaged by falling commodity prices and a rising currency," Reynolds says.

Moreover, the highest short-term (three to six months) interest rates in over 50 years are predicted to keep with their upward trend — with emphasis on three-month rates. As

interest-rate spreads widen between three- and six-month Treasury bills, Reynolds asserts, there is an indication of "a high premium on immediate liquidity."

Premiums on immediate liquidity occur when people will not keep money in any interest-bearing security that might make its future money-value decrease because of decreasing prices. High short-term interest rates may indicate that people are hoarding cash, which thus implies there's not enough money in the economy. And when there's not enough money to buy goods, price cuts — deflation — takes place.

All of the above leads to the Federal Reserve: Some economists say the Fed is being too tight with money; others say it's too loose. "Money growth is up at about 9 percent," which is above the prescribed 3 percent growth trend, Prof. Rosanna notes. Money growth above 3 percent — which is linked to the economy's desired long-term growth rate — usually translates into higher inflation.

But, "I don't know why there is such low inflation," he says.

Still, though, Prof. Rosanna doesn't see

future price stability. "If I had my preferences," he concludes, "I'd like the Fed to tighten up some more."

Indeed, if we look at recent runs on banks — Continental Illinois and more recently Financial Corp. of America — we see a bit of confidence erosion, similar to that which occurred in the Great Depression. Furthermore, Reynolds notes that 91 banks have failed in the last 18 months.

Prof. Rosanna attributes some of the banks' problems to waning bank regulations. Simply, he explains, many of those failed banks weren't — and some still aren't — suited for competition. "It takes a long time to get the kind of people in there to keep banks competitive," he adds.

The possibility of the Fed botching its job is not ruled out, however. The fact is, he says, there aren't too many empirical facts from which to draw a valid conclusion.

So what about these falling prices? I look at it this way: If we are truly in, what some argue, a "new high-tech industrial revolution," then prices are expected to fall as productivity increases, just as it happened in our last industrial revolution. Falling prices, after the double-digit inflation of the late 1970s, should be welcomed.

I don't mean to say that we should forget about a possible deflation. Neither over-inflating nor under-inflating a car tire gives maximum performance. The same goes for an economy.

"True deflation is not a problem," says Alan Greenspan, former chief economic advisor under president Gerald Ford, in *The New York Times*. "With the first whiff of it the world's central banks would start pumping up their money supplies."

What Greenspan says may be true. But if government has taught us anything it's not to rely on government — for anything.

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

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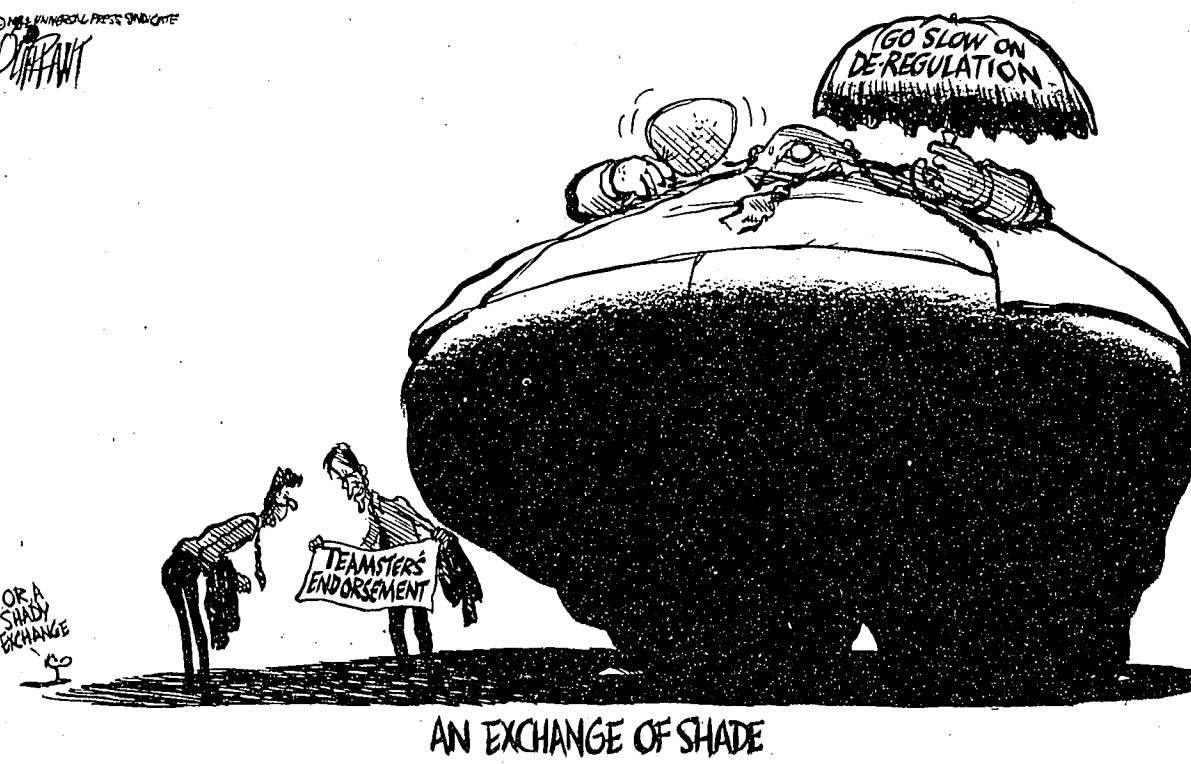
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Alecia Swasy Susan M. Mello
Editor Business Manager

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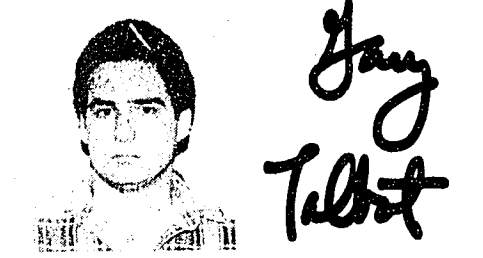
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AN EXCHANGE OF SHADE

Oh God, whatever happened to the free and easy life?

I said goodbye to my house this past weekend. Yes, the house where I spent the last ten years of my life is just a memory now. It has been sold, cleaned out and turned over to its new inhabitants. As a result, my sisters and I have left home for good, to try and make it on our own. Suddenly I feel old. I guess things will never be the same. The implications are scary.



There will be no more Parent's Bank and Trust for long term, low interest loans and specialized funding. Unlimited meal service is replaced by a food budget, infrequent trips to the supermarket, and occasional starvation. Bills and chronic debt become a

way of life as unemployment takes on a bold new meaning.

To top it all off, one of my best friends is getting married this weekend! What's going on here?

I guess I should have seen it coming. It really didn't sink in until I headed out of my hometown for the last time this past Labor Day. I loaded down my car with the last of my worldly possessions and headed straight into my bright, sunny future, or so I thought.

Unfortunately, I headed directly into the worst thunderstorm I've ever driven in. Feeling like a downtrodden Ookie, a la "The Grapes of Wrath," I was convinced that the stuff tied down on the roof of my car would fly off and through the windshield of the driver behind me, killing him and sending me to jail forever. Eventually, however, I made it to Happy Valley, albeit way behind schedule and a little worse for the wear.

I summoned that great guidance counselor in the sky.

"Go," I demanded. "What the hell is going on?"

There was a long pause before a deep, authoritative voice boomed, "Watch your tone young man!"

"Sorry," I said meekly. "I guess I lost my head."

"Name?"

"Gary, er, Gary Talbot."

"Well, maybe it's time you became more responsible, Gary."

"RESPONSIBLE?!! I was taken by surprise. What happened to the carefree life, free and easy, like in the Mountain Dew commercials?"

"You can still enjoy life. Just make sure you're accountable for your actions. You're an adult now, so act like one."

"Does this mean I have to be serious all the time, and polite to everyone, and say things that sound intellectual, and watch 'Nightline' with Ted Koppel?"

"Well, I wouldn't go that far, but a little maturity wouldn't hurt."

"But God, am I going to have to cook my own meals and do the dishes myself? Do I have to do my own laundry?"

"What about the standard of living I'm used to?"

"You'll have to economize."

"You mean like pitchers of Stroh's instead of kama kazi's?"

"Exactly."

"But what if I'm short of money to buy the things I need? What'll I do then?"

"Get a Visa card."

"But God, I'm afraid I won't be able to find a job when I graduate."

"Then maybe you should show some discipline and take college more seriously."

Suddenly my worst fears had been realized. I trembled as I feebly asked, "Do you mean my classes?"

"Of course I mean your classes. You need better grades if you want a job."

"Yeah, I guess, but what if I don't?"

"Then you better hit the lotto."

"I can see that this is more than I bargained for. I'm going to have to sleep on this for a while. I'll get back to you."

"You do that."

"In the mean time there's one more question I'd like to ask of you."

"What's that?"

"Could you give me six numbers, from one to forty, off the top of your head?"

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

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