

editorial opinion

Getting back to the beginning

In 1855, a small agriculture school in central Pennsylvania was opened. The farmer's school was surrounded by lush fields in the middle of a sparsely-populated farming community. One stone building stood alone where the students ate, slept, attended classes and went to the one-room library.

The school was founded because there was a need to educate young men about farming. Many of the students had been away from their family farms serving their country in the armed services.

Because of the importance of studying agriculture, the school became state funded and was the first land-grant school in Pennsylvania.

Almost 130 years later, this school is still a land-grant institution, but it is now a major university. Instead of 30-odd students, more than 60,000 come to study.

The same old stone building that stood alone no longer houses students. Instead it holds administrative offices including the second-floor office of University President Bryce Jordan.

How ironic that, surrounded by the humble beginnings of what was a school for average- to low-income men, President Jordan, and in fact the Board of Trustees, have forgotten where the roots of Penn State lie.

Not from an ever-expanding research department or a top 10 football team did this University grow, but from a learning institution that, in its day, was not geared for only the rich to attend.

Today, Penn State is becoming a place where only the rich can come to study. Tuition has increased for the 18th straight year and no relief is in sight for students. In the midst of cuts in federal student aid, the cost of studying at Penn State is becoming unaffordable for the type of students first encouraged to attend this institution.

Penn State boasts of being a university for first-generation college graduates, because of its accessibility. It has so much to offer — and extending this higher education to students who would not normally be able to study at a large institution is something of which to be proud.

Some have not forgotten our humble beginnings. Pitt fans still relish the cry that we are a farmer's school. Pins and bumper stickers carry the slogan "Pitt versus Penn State — Culture versus Agriculture."

And although those from Pitt look upon Penn State's beginnings as something to belittle, these foundations are not belittling because they serve as a reminder of the purpose of Penn State — a purpose that's worth keeping in mind.

But do Dr. Jordan and members of the Board of Trustees remember how it all began? They seem to be forgetting the past as they strategically plan for the future.

This year, tuition was raised 7.3 percent — \$190 and \$212 dollars for in-state undergraduates and graduates respectively. In addition, a \$100 surcharge was added for some students in the colleges of Engineering and Earth and Mineral Sciences.

While it is true that the University cannot control all economic conditions or the amount of funding appropriated by the state, the University community can do its part to lessen the effects of these factors.

Last year, University students showed their concern by engineering the largest voter registration drive in the country and by lobbying in Harrisburg for more state funds. At the same time, the administration was lobbying and beginning a campaign to raise funds from the private sector.

These efforts are commendable, but a concentrated effort — one involving students, administrators, faculty and even members of the Board of Trustees — would have a greater impact on keeping tuition expenses down.

Why go to all that trouble?

Because Penn State is Pennsylvania's original land-grant institution, and the foundation of the purpose of educating the "middle-class" student, that's why.

Remember our beginnings — Penn State's beginnings — is the only reason needed to keep the cost of education down.

In 1855, the stone building in the middle of campus provided students with the opportunity to receive a solid education. In 1985, that stone building ought to be doing the same thing.

Welcomed help in voicing concerns

David,

Just a note to let you know your performance at the Board of Trustees meeting in Uniontown this past weekend was very impressive.

Although the fight for a tuition increase was lost, you presented a solid case as to why a tuition increase should be avoided. Your input in substantiating the views and opinions of the student body will be a personal precedent in that the administration knows you as a representative of students are concerned enough to speak out.

It was also perceptive to question the intention of the \$100 surcharge for engineering majors by pointing out the possibility of the additional cost being "a tuition under another name, in the sense that next year we're going to come back and discuss how much it would be raised."

And despite the decision to raise tuition, you continued to fight on other important issues.

Requesting the temporary postponement of the divestment issue was a strategic move because student input is necessary before such a crucial decision is made. You added to your credibility by being well-prepared with the facts surrounding the heated topic.

It was encouraging to see that you did not get flustered when the validity of the upcoming Undergraduate Student Government survey was questioned by Trustee Larry Foster. Although the facts spoke for themselves, they were delivered quite well, which is always important when communicating with administrators and board members.

You've done well establishing your credibility and you are in a position to make the difference for many students at the University. If you continue to perform as well as you did at the meeting David, many accomplishments and milestones at the University are attainable.

Concentrate on present issues and keep fighting for the student input that is necessary in University decisions. Thanks for not just examining the facts as presented by the administration, but for digging deeper and finding out what the students really want and fighting to get it for them.

— The Daily Collegian

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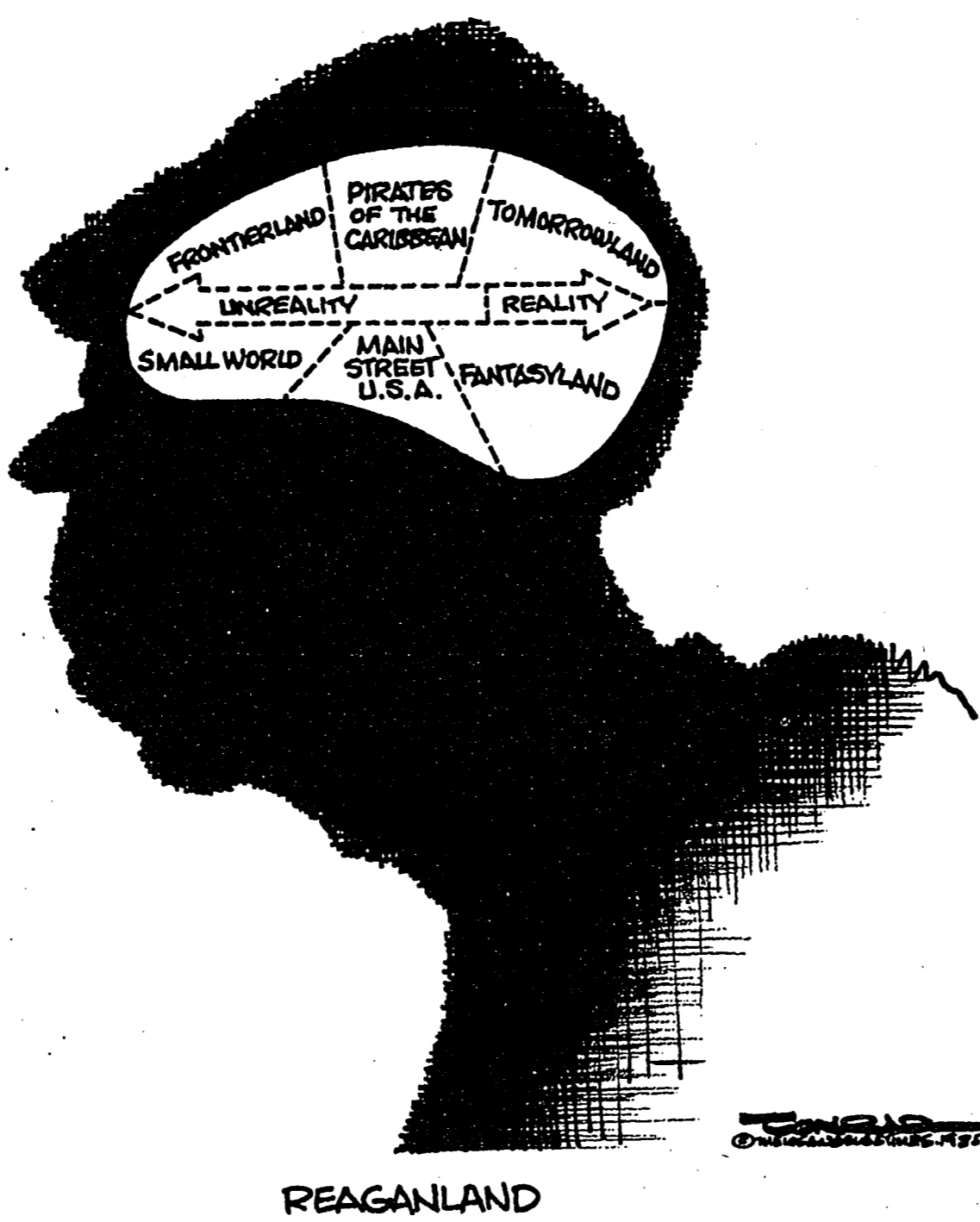
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Mail letters to: The Daily Collegian, 128 Carnegie Building, University Park, Pa. 16802. Names may be withheld on request. Letters may also be selected for publication in *The Weekly Collegian*.

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That stable element in your life will always say "it's good to be alive"

After a week of steady Arts Festival saturation, I'm quite surprised to find I miss it already. I know what you're thinking. "Well, of course you miss it! It's an entire week of parties!" But that's not what I'm talking about. I miss the festival itself, the artists (most of whom are actually nerds in a flimsy disguise), and the bands I want to see but always manage to miss.

A man from WPX-TV announced him and the crowd went wild. "Speedy Delivery!" he screamed. He smiled confidently and said, "Well, Speedy Delivery to you."

What followed was pure entertainment. He had brought X the Owl, Donkey Hotie, and King Friday along with him. He explained that they were just puppets and not real, living people. He did pass-out imitations of X and Friday as he slipped them on his head, and he got the crowd into the act as we brayed along with Donkey Hotie. He got children volunteers to step up on stage and sing a song (we were treated to the ABC's and three rousing versions of "Jingle Bells").

The only disappointment of the show was Purple Panda. Normally, Panda speaks in a low monotone, usually saying "I don't have a birthday. I'll never have a birthday." But when Panda mounted the stage and started to sing, he was from a female voice said burnt nostrils, too — at least when I think about it. I'm particularly proud of getting sick like that, but everyone who drinks simply has to yark once in a while. Besides, it was probably a new color, prettier than anybody's ever seen before.

But, sickness and headaches notwithstanding, the festival atmosphere in State College makes people want to party — with anyone. A strange sort of camaraderie that usually only exists after the football team wins a tough game seems to affect everyone. You can usually just walk into anybody's apartment (providing they're having a party) and start drinking. By the end of the night, you may find yourself in a mass of people you won't remember, singing weird old songs you won't remember, and making out with someone your roommate says you don't want to remember. Nobody gets turned away at the door, though, and that's what's important. (Remember this the next time I show up at your place.)

Now that I've convinced you all that I actually do drink, I can get on to what this column is really about. Each of the two years I've been here for the Arts Festival, one or two things always made it worthwhile. This year, it was two things: going to a great party on Friday with my girlfriend (she wasn't here for festival weekend last year), and Mr. McFeely.

Yes, he's the guy on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. The one who runs the Speedy Delivery Service — the only resident of the neighborhood who has ever made the transition to the Kingdom of Make-Believe without having his appearance, name, or job altered (with the possible exception of Chef Brocklett, but he's not a regular like McFeely). If you don't believe me, I'll give you a few examples. Mr. Negri, who is normally a musician, is transformed into Handyman Negri. Miss Abernethy certainly isn't royalty, but she becomes Lady Abernethy in the Kingdom. Francois the singer was twisted into a singing State Police trooper with lavender gloves. And I don't remember exactly what Robert Troll does in the neighborhood, but he certainly isn't a troll. His voice was even changed.

Thinking about this, one soon comes to the realization that Mr. McFeely is the one stable, immutable person in the neighborhood. He is the safety line that we cling to as the trolley takes us to Make-Believe. So imagine how excited I was when I found out that he was coming to the festival on Wednesday — "11:30 til 12:30. Mr. McFeely, children's event, Festival Tent," the schedule said.

"Children's event?" Hah! My roommate and I decided that we couldn't miss this opportunity. We left the apartment at 11, but were delayed by the crowds and didn't get to the tent until 11:25. It was using my tongue to clean the ashtrays in every bar treated to the ABC's and three rousing versions of "Jingle Bells."

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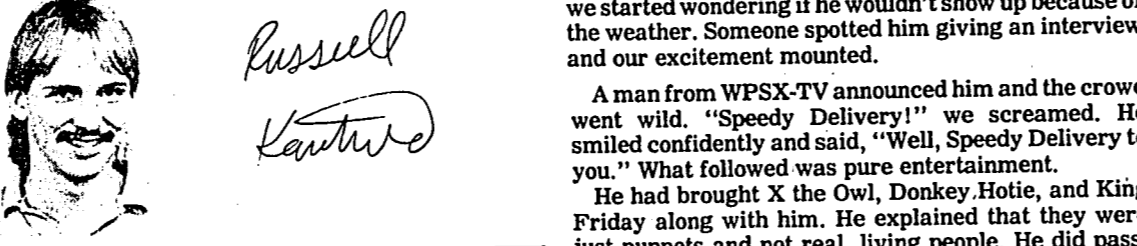
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Russell Kantner is a senior majoring in English and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Live Aid concert gets rave reviews

By RANDY WHITSTONE
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Cleanup crews removed piles of beer-soaked blankets and broken coolers from John F. Kennedy Stadium yesterday, two days after rock 'n' roll's biggest concert went off so smoothly that city officials wished they could stage another one.

"It was a tremendous event. I really feel privileged to have been a part of it," said Joel Ralph, director of the city's stadium sports complex in south Philadelphia.

Ralph, who has spent 13 years as head of the complex, said the crowd of 92,000 at Saturday's Live Aid superconcert for African famine relief "restored my faith in our attendees because sports fans in general are less well-behaved than they were."

"It was almost scary how good they were," he said. "It was a great feeling."

Singer Bob Geldof, who organized the event, which took place simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, said a final total of the amount raised would not be known until Thursday. But organizers of the Live Aid Trust told the British Broadcasting Corp. they estimated the total in pledges and rights at \$70 million.

Mayor W. Wilson Goode and other officials said the 14-hour concert would provide a needed boost to the city's international visibility. The mayor has been working to improve Philadelphia's image since he took office in 1983, and has done so with increased urgency since the May 13 standoff between police and members of the radical group MOVE ended in a fire that killed 11 people and left 770 homeless.

"I think this (concert) will have a tremendous positive impact," Goode said.

Samuel Rogers, a spokesman for the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the concert was even better than he'd hoped.

"I thought it was one of the smoothest productions that I've ever seen," he said, adding that it gave the area a \$10 million influx of tourism dollars.

Ralph said he had a crew of 50 cleaning up inside the 59-year-old concrete stadium kiosk affectionately as "The Rockpile."

"We really just got started," he said. "We've cleared the field and removed the tarp. But there's a lot left."

Ralph said that partly because officials encouraged fans to bring supplies, "it was the heaviest garbage we've ever had."

Among items left behind by concertgoers were shoes, beach chairs, shirts, beer-soaked blankets, and shattered styrofoam coolers used as platforms by enthusiastic fans. Ralph said an entire trash container had been filled with ruined, abandoned blankets. Officials estimated that 7,000 pounds of empty soda cans had been left behind, and about 50 tons of garbage were found outside the stadium.

He said some minor vandalism had been committed, but no major damage was done. "It's an insurance nightmare," he said of the 100,000-seat stadium.

Police reported 44 arrests during the concert.

collegian notes

- The Committee for Justice in South Africa will sponsor the film, "Last Drop of Blood," at 7 tonight in the HUB Main Lounge.
- The Free University will sponsor a vegetarian cooking class at 6 tonight in 273 Willard.
- The Student Assistance and Information Center offers help in study skills, test taking, and time management tonight from 5 to 10 p.m. in 155 Boucke.
- The film, "Madschenkrieg" will be shown for the German Intensive Course at 8 tonight in 165 Willard.
- The Penn State Ultimate Frisbee Club will hold an open Ultimate Frisbee Practice and Tutorial at 7 tonight on Old Main lawn.
- The Moshannon Sierra Club will hold its monthly meeting/B.Y.O. picnic at 8 tonight at Greenwood State Park. There will be a 1 p.m. hike before the meeting. For information or rides, call 238-0590.
- The Free University will sponsor "Arabic as a Foreign Language," from 7 to 9 tonight in 212 Boucke.
- The Free University will hold a discussion class on "Eckankar, The Ancient Science of Soul Travel" Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in 113 Sackett.
- The Graduate School and Office of Summer Sessions will hold an Evan Pugh Summer Seminar at 3:45 today in 101 Kern. Professor Stanley Rosen (philosophy) will speak on "Nihilism: Much Ado About Nothing."
- University Resident Assistant, Angela Pugo, 304 Wolf Hall, reported that 11 residents have had property and money taken between June 8 and July 13. Total losses are estimated at \$340, University police said.
- Robert Morris of Summit, N.J., reported golf balls caused an estimated \$400 damage to the front and rear windows of his 1985 Nissan station wagon, while it was parked in lot Red A Friday, police said.
- A University Police Services Officer reported he apprehended an individual at McElwain Hall Sunday in connection with the theft of two light bulbs that had an estimated value of \$1.50 from the Arts Festival area on Pollock Road sometime Sunday, University police said.
- Eloron Frantz, Box 123, State College, reported that a stage canopy worth an estimated \$1000 was taken

police log

- Robert Mickelson of Melbourne Beach, Fla., reported to the State College Police Department that two glass figurines valued at \$500 were taken from an artist's booth at 300 S. Allen St. sometime early Sunday morning.
- State College Police reported that someone gained entrance to St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 208 West Foster Ave., where the suspects bent and damaged the brass altar cross valued at about \$500.
- Two handmade wicker baskets valued at \$86 were taken from a booth in the 200 block of South Allen St. around 2:30 Sunday afternoon, State College police said.

Philadelphia begins rebuilding process

By JOYCE MERCER
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The mayor and neighborhood residents broke ground yesterday for the rebuilding process that will replace those destroyed by fire May 13 when police tried to evict the radical group MOVE from its fortified rowhouses.

"I want to assure you that our goal is to rebuild and provide quality housing and I believe that out of all this site will come a new community," Mayor W. Wilson Goode said to a crowd of about 250 people.

The mayor turned the first shovel of dirt, followed by many of the neighborhood's residents who took turns shoveling half-don at a time. Fifty-three homes were destroyed and eight heavily damaged in a fire that broke out after police dropped a bomb on the rooftop bunker of the MOVE occupied. Officials said 11 MOVE members died in the blaze — seven adults and four children.

Residents of the quiet, middle-income neighborhood of rowhouses in West Philadelphia had complained of harassment by MOVE members, whose philosophy allowed them to live with numerous dogs, rats and waste.

On the morning of May 13, police tried to serve arrest warrants to MOVE members and to evict MOVE from the dwelling. A daylong standoff followed during which police unsuccessfully tried to force MOVE members out of the house with tear gas, water deluge guns and smoke grenades.

The explosive device was dropped late in the afternoon to try to knock out the bunker, and the ensuing fire caused an estimated \$10 million damage and left 270 residents of a 1½-block area homeless.

The city has promised to rebuild their houses by Christmas.

Earl Watkins, who lived in the neighborhood for 28 years, said he feels "a little sad because we lost so much."

But Watkins said the letters and gifts he have received from around the country show that Americans care.

Beverly Hardner, one of the developers, said she hoped to meet the Christmas deadline.

"The issue is to make sure that the community understands what's going on," she said. "The community wants quality. They don't want to sacrifice quality for time."

Some of the houses will not be known for about two weeks, she said, but previous estimates have put the cost per house at about \$80,000.

City Housing Director Julia Robinson said she was unable to quote a final price for the homes, but said the developers were awarded the rebuilding project for a bid of \$4.9 million.

After the groundbreaking, a man who identified himself as Alphonso Africa, called Goode and police murderers.

Eccentric math genius to speak

By NAN CRYSTAL ARENS
Collegian Staff Writer

Paul Erdos, the roving Hungarian mathematical genius, will discuss his number theory and "emetics" in a public lecture at 4 p.m. today in 101 Kern.

Simon Krantz, University professor of mathematics, said Erdos is recognized as one of the most prolific modern mathematicians — producing more than 1,000 papers during his career.

"Most mathematicians write 50 in a lifetime and that's a lot," Krantz said.

The number theory, the topic of much of Erdos' work, has many applications including the marking and breaking of secret codes.

In addition to being a genius, Erdos is also one of the world's most eccentric scholars, with no regular job, no home, and no family, Krantz said.

"He has no regular job at a normal university," Krantz said. "He has no home of any kind. He just travels around and lives out of a suitcase — he just shows up and expects people to take care of him."

"He flew to Japan one time with no credit cards, no check book, no formalized plans, and only \$50 in cash," Krantz said. "He just called somebody from the airport and told them to come pick him up."

Erdos is also unique because of his ability to collaborate with other mathematicians, Krantz said.

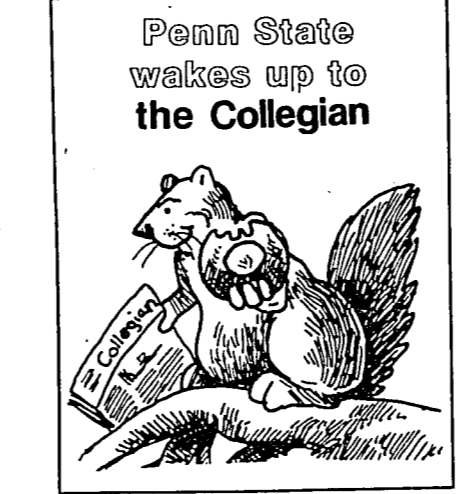
Erdos has also produced many new ideas in a variety of mathematical fields, including a 1949 paper, which presented a new and innovative proof of the prime number theorem, Krantz said.

Helen Warren, assistant director of the Summer Session, said in addition to special speakers like Erdos, the summer session office sponsors weekly lectures by the University's Evan Pugh Professors.

"These are professors who are recognized by the (University) president for their national reputations and their scholarly achievements," Warren said.

The Evan Pugh lectures are held at 4 p.m. every Thursday in 101 Kern, Warren said.

The lectures are designed for the general public, and audiences have included University faculty, administration, graduate students and interested people from the community. However, Warren said that undergraduates have attended the lectures to date.



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