

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Monday, Sept. 16, 1985

editorial opinion

Penn State Proud

During the current administrative atmosphere of change — University President Bryce Jordan's renewed emphasis on general education requirements and the current position on strengthening existing alcohol policies — a "family" success story reflecting the history of Penn State and all that it has accomplished should not be overlooked.

University alumnus, current Vice President of Research and Dean of the Graduate School Charles L. Hosler is to be nominated to serve on the National Science Board. His nomination comes from President Reagan. Personally, this recognition is certainly one of the many feathers Hosler has added to his professional cap. But in terms of the University, it helps remove the long-standing stigma associated with the University's beginning — a farmer's school.

The 24-member board to which Hosler is scheduled to be appointed administers scientific programs, publications and research. In essence, he will help to determine policy and examine trends occurring within the field of science.

Eric A. Walker, president emeritus of the University, was the only other University faculty member ever appointed to the board. In addition, Walker held the position of chairman from 1964-1966.

But honor and prestige are not unknown to Hosler.

His longtime association with the University — both as a student and a professor — has been marked with many accomplishments in meteorology.

He is the U.S. Representative on the Executive Committee Panel of Experts on Edu-

cation and Training of the World Meteorological Organization and a member of the Environmental Effects, Transport and Fate Committee of the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

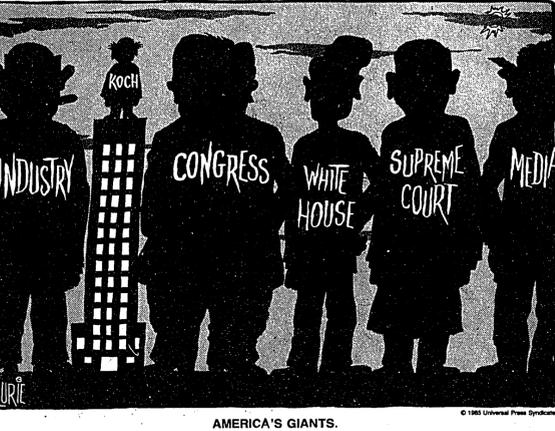
He was also a member of the National Research Council Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Resources, and currently is chairman of the council's Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate. Also, he is a member of its Geophysics Research Forum.

Hosler received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in meteorology from the University. Joining the faculty in 1947, Hosler has been associated with the University in numerous positions. He has served as adviser to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and as president of the American Meteorological Society.

When the University is graced with the presence of such a capable faculty member, and of the University shares in the pride.

Granted, Penn State has its share of problems — with alcohol abuse, grading criteria and lack of communication between administration and students — as does any other large institution. But as with anything, where there are bad aspects there are also good. Everyone associated with Penn State must be willing to accept all of its share along with its glory.

Charles Hosler, through his dedication to the University and the field of science, has truly bestowed a great deal of glory on Penn State and has given everyone associated with the University yet another reason to be PENN STATE PROUD.



the daily Collegian

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Counterparts:

Japanese and American business attitudes are as far separated as the countries themselves

Newspaper editors had no reason to complain this summer about a lack of good stories. The hostage crisis in Beirut, the battle up on the Hill over tax reform and the budget, and the biggest military spy scandal in our history were among the major news items.

But no other single issue grabbed the public's attention more than the plethora of airplane accidents that plagued the summer months. An Air India Boeing 747 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean killing over 300 passengers. An accident involving an Iberia Air Lines plane left 146 people dead. Here in the States, 135 passengers were killed when a Delta Air Lines plane lost control during a violent thunderstorm.

Most recently, an accident in Milwaukee left 31 passengers dead when their private plane crashed shortly after takeoff.

But none of these fatal incidents caused as much public shock and frustration as the crash of a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 in mid-August.

Only 10 days after the Delta Air Lines disaster, the worst accident in aviation history occurred. 320 passengers died after a part of the tail section that controls the plane's steering capabilities came apart and dropped into the water.

The Delta and JAL crashes have sparked a number of controversies in the aviation industry. And as reporters and photogra-

phers rushed to the scenes to gather information and pictures, it became evident that the airline industry was about to undergo an intensive round of scrutiny.

Two different airlines, two different countries, and two very different ways of handling the situation.

In Japan, the president of JAL went to the site of the accident; he visited the funerals of some of the victims, and he vowed to resign his position after an investigation into the cause of the accident was completed.

The picture in Dallas was a little different. Insurance adjusters rushed to the scene to make early settlements and lawyers placed advertisements in newspapers displaying their services available.

The world focused its attention on these two companies and the difference in their philosophies about business and responsibility became very apparent.

A lesson in business ethics is not what this column is about. Nor is it going to deliberately antagonize Delta or JAL's efforts. In fact, Delta did assign an employee to each victim's family to help them cope with the situation and to lend a hand if needed.

But I say deliberately because it would be difficult to be absolutely value-free when discussing issues like business and ethics.

I think, though, that the difference in attitudes about corporate responsibility are more than just superficial between American firms and our Eastern counterparts.

A U.S. News and World Report story on the accident said that within 72 hours of the incident the first lawsuit against Delta had been filed. The same report quoted some Japanese legal experts who said that no lawsuits would probably be filed against JAL.

Robert Corington, assistant professor of philosophy and the instructor for the business ethics course here at the University,

said that in our country we grant corporations power and prestige. In response, we should demand that firms follow an ethical charter.

This ethical charter includes a fundamental principle stating that companies should act as morally responsible as individuals would.

Wouldn't it be nice if this assumption were true. But most of us know that this ethic is not always the case.

The recent gas leaks involving Union Carbide chemical plants have shown us that sometimes, the bigger the company the less ethical they may act.

The damage done to both Union Carbide's reputation and to the world's view of American industry may be irreversible.

We may never know whether or not negligence was the cause of the leak that killed 2500 people in Bhopal, India. And because of this fact retribution against Union Carbide, whether monetary or otherwise, may never be achieved.

Even in our own country we can't be sure that companies will act as responsibly as they should.

The Ford Pinto disaster also confirms our rightful mistrust of large corporations.

It was proven in court that certain Ford employees knew about the defect in the Pinto gas tank: that an explosion could occur if the car was struck from behind.

But Ford decided not to change anything because they determined that the cost of recalling and repairing the cars would be greater than any collection of lawsuits against the company. Ford took a gamble and several people lost — their lives.

One of the most demeaning feelings an individual can have is to feel as if we have been abused. And if that abuse turns out to be fatal, then the families of that person seek to gain retribution. Our judicial system was designed to allow any person, indiffer-

ent to race or wealth, to have the opportunity to achieve retribution and have the problem corrected.

So what is it about our society that has made monetary retribution so important? Can we be so callous that even in the hands of disaster, such as the Delta Air Lines accident, we still attempt to seek out some kind of financial reward?

The answer lies in the fact that this same system of justice that gives us an advantage is the same system that has made gaining any kind of retribution a hopeless situation.

Anyone accusing a firm of negligence and taking them to court hoping to achieve some type of justice better be prepared for a long fight. Filing forms and all the pretrial motions involved in suing a company make a court case a very complicated and tedious process.

For example, suppose every family of every person killed in the Delta accident sued Delta for \$1 million. And then let's assume that a trial does take place and the judge or jury finds for the plaintiff and declares that Delta Air Lines must pay each family the full amount of the suit.

Hurray, right?

Well, what if Delta says that the only way it can pay off such a debt is to shut down some operations and lay off thousands of workers. Has justice been accomplished? No. The retribution for one group is conditional on the injustice done to another group.

But of course my example isn't realistic because I have made my trial seem as if it would take place in a matter of days. Most of us have heard, though how backlogged our system is. And my trial didn't even assume Delta would appeal — which would be almost certain.

So because of the red tape that makes attaining justice so difficult, we feel that when a verdict is finally reached, the victory is not so sweet.

Seeking to merely have the problem corrected is not enough. And so financial retribution has become a very important part of the process.

In the case of negligence involving accident or death, the amount of money requested becomes large. And if the accusation of negligence is aimed at a corporation, then the dollar figure becomes huge.

This adversarial attitude of ours toward individuals and groups is part of our competitive nature. But it is this attitude that most distinguishes us from the Japanese.

Albert Tsugawa, associate professor of Oriental philosophy, said that in times of distress or tragedy, the Japanese people tend to take a more communal approach toward problem-solving.

Tsugawa also said that the Japanese are not so concerned about pointing the blame at an individual. In fact, he said that if the JAL investigation does prove that an individual was responsible for the accident, JAL would still not directly hold that person responsible.

This commitment to collective responsibility would be a concept that American business would be hard pressed to implement. We may join together to find a solution to a particular problem, but part of that solution often seems to include identifying the individual responsible for the problem.

It happens in politics, in business, and even in our schools.

Ironically, this characteristic that is in each of us is not the kind of problem that we can change by joining together. Rather, it is a situation that each of us, individually, can go out of our way to correct.

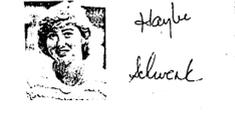
Michael Kutner is a senior majoring in finance and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His column appears every Monday.

opinions

Differences:

Repentance or cockroaches — can men and women survive co-ed housing at Penn State?

It has finally happened! Oh the depths of iniquity into which we are sinking! Yes, the house in which I live in Tenter Hall has gone co-ed, and those who warned us earlier are observing our descent with nods of, "If only they had listened when we warned them!"



(If, indeed, the writers of these letters-to-the-editor detailing the immorality of co-ed housing have even remained at a university that allows such decadence.)

Now that University officials have threatened plans for an expansion of co-ed housing on campus, I have realized that I must take up the call and appeal to those around me to wake up while we can and remove ourselves from this horrid sinfulness.

Last fall when the plan was announced, many of us trembled from fear. Would we be able to escape? We wondered.

We saw our friends in North Halls' interest houses who had been adversely affected to the point that they can now interact easily with members of the opposite sex.

Worse than that, we knew a few individuals who had actually grown up in co-ed houses. They had had co-ed bathrooms and even co-ed baths when they were very young! Their rooms had been next to each other on the same floor of the house. We were horrified to learn that these people are often able to have platonic relationships with both males and females.

For those of us who were raised separately from the opposite sex, except for occasional accidental passings on crowded streets, even co-ed classes and co-ed dining halls had been shocking. By living in the same building we have gone too far. We will pay!

Indeed, our punishment has already begun. Bethlehem House in Tenter Hall has been overrun with cockroaches. This is a sign. The forces that be are trying to warn us to turn from our wicked ways. As the locusts were to the Egyptians, as Herpes was to participants in the sexual revolution, so the cockroaches are to the iniquitous residents of Bethlehem House. What will be our next plight? Lightning? Flood? First-born? And how many warnings do we need before we will heed?

For what heinous and sinful acts have been committed in the past four weeks!

Members of the opposite sex have been sharing work tables in the study lounge, transferring one another's laundry from washer to dryer, greeting each other in the stairwells, and debating the merits of shaving versus lotion hair remover with alovera. Last week a female resident saw a male resident dressed only in a towel; men have seen women with wet hair and no makeup. I have been seen in my thick ugly glasses!

In short, we have no more secrets from one another. Can a society that thrives on a delusion of vast differences between men and women survive many more co-ed activities? We are raising a generation of young men who know that women belch and have smelly feet and young women who realize that men like roses and can be afraid of spiders. No more will a blissful forest of misconceptions separate male from female! No longer can we rely on hopeless

expectations for respect. The time is coming when we will view each other as fellow human beings!

We must, therefore, repent and save ourselves from the condemnation that will come on the day when society is finally judged! Let us heed the early warnings and turn from these plans for expansion of co-ed housing before these evils can spread to affect the impressionable minds of young freshmen. We must forsake our foolish, foolish ways and return to segregation of the sexes before we are overrun by understanding, interaction, and more cockroaches.

Whatever one's opinion on the issue of divestment and apartheid in South Africa, we should all keep in mind that ignorance of the issues and apathy contribute significantly to the maintenance of institutional structures that perpetuate men's inhumanity to man.

James B. Stewart, Director of Black Studies Program
Associate Professor of Economics

reader opinion

Still uninformed

As the editors of the Collegian stated on Sept. 10, the Undergraduate Student Government has done a commendable job of educating Penn State about apartheid.

However, I am distressed by the apathy of the members of USG senate. As a member of the Committee for Justice in South Africa, I was very disappointed by the failure of the senate to override USG President David Rosenblatt's veto. It was argued at a senate meeting last spring that a majority of senators felt a lack of knowledge on the subject and it had left them unable to take a firm stand on the issue. They believed that they needed more information to make responsible decisions. On Drugs is NOT involved in making University policy.

The purpose of the last two weeks was to educate both the students and USG senators. (After all, senators are students too.) In this sense, the South Africa program failed. I attended all but one of these programs. At each program I attended, there was never more than 10 or 12 senators present and always the same 10 or 12. I appreciate the concern and effort of these people. My question to USG is, how successful was this program when 2/3

you are still uninformed as you were last spring.
Dina M. Baumwoll, Junior-American studies
Sept. 13

Clarifying policy

Because of the recent article in the Sept. 12 Daily Collegian concerning the issues surrounding the use of alcohol in the community, I feel it important to clarify a number of concerns about the policy of On Drugs, Inc. On Drugs is NOT against student drinking, we do not believe in providing unbiased information and skills allowing people to make responsible decisions.

As a registered Penn State organization, it does provide a 24-hour hotline and drop-in service, crisis intervention, unbiased information, referral assistance, and support groups, all available free and confidential to Penn State students.

Lori Strayer, freshman-individual and family studies
Sept. 12

Too many

I would like to apologize to the 200-plus people who were turned away at the door of the Abbie Hoffman program on Sept. 5 due to the limited size of Schwab Auditorium. In selecting the location of Mr. Hoffman's presentation, we did not foresee the magnitude of the response that the program did receive. In fact, the typical response of students, when told of the program was, "Who is she?" The auditorium was also comparable in size to auditoriums where he had spoken previously. I regret that so many people missed a terrific speech.

Frank Sullivan, Junior-mathematics
Colloquy President
Sept. 6

It won't work

I am extremely irked by the adoption of such an assinine meal plan for the Fall 1986. The mathematical fallacy, by which the University will be able to plauder the students for additional profit, is too detailed to examine in a letter, but an example of the ramifications will suffice.

Consider a fine autumn morning, say, Nov. 6, 1986. I go to breakfast and two people are already there; it is 9:15 a.m.

Following an uneventful day, I go to eat in my cafeteria — Waring (West Halls). Nine people are dining. Meanwhile, 467 starved socialites have crammed into East Halls' facilities.

By 1988, only 75 people live on campus — having been forced off by the deteriorating quality of food and an inflationary point system. The University, a victim of its own money-making ruse, is closed.

Brad Rippey, sophomore-meteorology

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Tuesday, September 17

The Maltese Falcon

Photo: I. R. Elisha Cook, Jr., Sydney Greenstreet, Humphrey Bogart, and Mary Astor.

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