

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Thursday, Sept. 19, 1985

editorial opinion

Get the facts

Ahh, the joys of summer — earning money, doing internships, enjoying the outdoors. The University's students and faculty have for years been short-changed when it comes to such pleasures.

The reason: a calendar that begins prior to Labor Day (the day which usually symbolizes the end of summer, and summer jobs and internships) and ends in early May (long before the generally accepted start of summer, summer jobs and internships).

But the joys of summer may once again be within reach thanks to an endorsement made by the University's Faculty Senate last week. The senate has given the OK to a proposed 14-week semester that would more closely align Penn State's calendar with the rest of the known universe.

Under the senate recommendations:

- Fall Semester classes would start after Labor Day (with the first two days after Labor Day being used for arrival and registration) and Spring Semester classes after Jan. 10.
- The new calendar will include nine periods of instruction with classes beginning at 7:45 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m.
- Classes will last 55 or 60 minutes — five minutes longer than the current time periods.
- The last two days of the 14-week period will become "tutorial days." No regularly scheduled classes will be held on those days but faculty will hold office hours to assist students.
- The five or six days set aside for finals will not be changed.

The senate approval of the ad hoc committee on the calendar's recommendation confirmed that the plan is academically feasible. But it remains to be seen whether the move would be a good, strategic one for the University community.

That job now falls to a yet-to-be-formed administrative task force which will look into the managerial and logistic implications of switching to 14-week semesters. Clearly, many adjustments and sacrifices on part of the University system and the

communities that support it will have to be made.

Class periods will be lengthened by five minutes, enabling students an average of 14 hours of instruction for each credit, rather than the 15 hours students currently receive. Local businesses will be affected by the absence of students for two more weeks out of the year. Faculty members, who had to revise their curriculum two years ago with the change from terms to semesters, will once again be forced to change their course outlines.

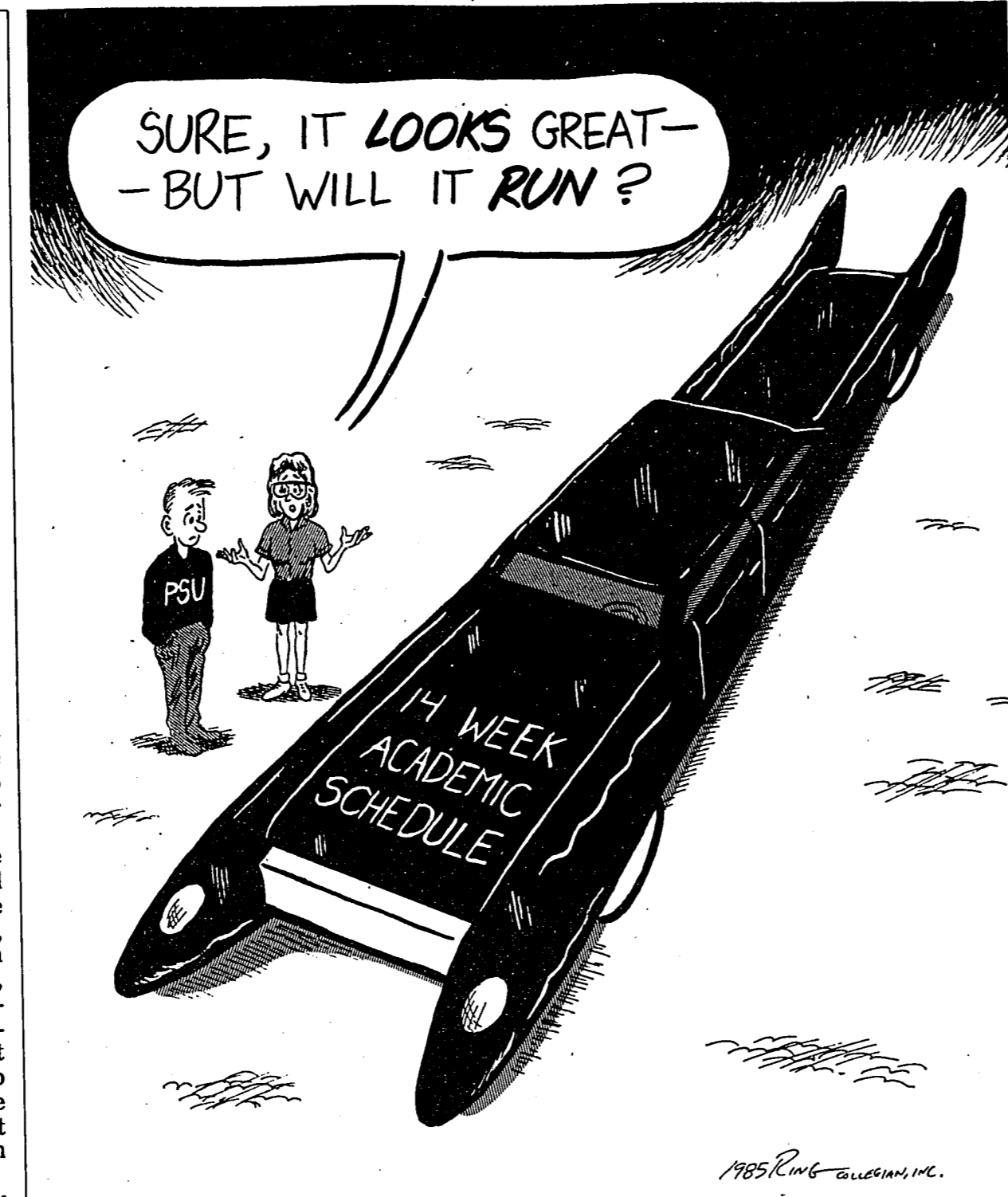
In addition, with the longer class day, dining hall and night class schedules as well as bus schedules and apartment leases may have to be changed to accommodate a new University calendar.

On the other hand, there are some benefits.

Students will have more time in the summer to work and earn money to come back to college. In addition, students taking internships or jobs will not have to leave early. And faculty will have more time to attend major conferences related to their fields with an extended summer.

Obviously, there are pros and cons to be weighed before a decision can be made. And before the advising calendar committee made its recommendation to the senate, they handed out a survey to get input from faculty on the possible change. However, other than the members of the Undergraduate Student Government's Academic Assembly who sit on the senate, student leaders have not taken the opportunity to express their views on the matter. The change to a 14-week semester will affect students just as much, if not more, than faculty members.

At first glance the change seems very appealing. But such a far-reaching decision needs to be examined from all sides — including the students' side. Fall Semester classes should not begin with the dog days of summer but with the beginning of the football season. No decision should be made until all the facts are in.



the daily Collegian

Thursday, Sept. 19, 1985
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Gail L. Johnson
Editor

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Speak out on task force recommendations

Earlier this week, the University President's Task Force on Alcohol released recommendations designed to reduce the problems created by alcohol at the University. Members of the task force now want feedback from students about these recommendations before they are submitted to University President Bryce Jordan on Oct. 15.

The Daily Collegian will run an opinion/editorial page concerning these recommendations on Friday, Sept. 27. If you have a comment or criticism to make about these proposed changes, write a letter to the editor (one typed page, double spaced) or a forum (up to three typed pages, double spaced).

Items for publication should be delivered by the author to 128 Carnegie Building on or before Wednesday, Sept. 25. Authors will be required to provide identification.

opinions

reader opinion

Graduate Students:

As you are aware, Penn State has investments of over \$6 million in companies doing business in South Africa. These investments have received a lot of attention lately, and the PSU Board of Trustees has voted to review the University's investment policy in South Africa.

One of the factors going into the Board's decision, to be made in January, is student opinion regarding these investments. That is, do Penn State students want PSU to continue to invest in South Africa, or do we want divestiture?

This is where you come in. We are working, together with the Undergraduate Student Government and the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, to carry out a telephone survey of student opinion. In order to do this, we need your help.

We need people willing to staff the phones being used for this survey. The survey will be taken Wednesday and Thursday evenings, September 25 and 26. If you agree to help us, there will be a short training session, of no more than one hour, starting at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, in 203 HUB.

We urge you to help us with this survey. This is an issue facing all students at Penn State, undergraduate and graduate alike.

If you are willing to become involved, give us a call at the GSA office, 865-4211, between 9:30 and 5 visit us at 305 Kern. Thanks for your help.

Bryan J. Del Buono, president, Graduate Student Association
Sept. 17

Team up with Castro to protect our southern flank

South America and the Caribbean Basin are vital areas of U.S. national security interest, and have been since the early nineteenth century. As such, it is clear that we must strictly adhere to the tenets of the Monroe Doctrine. This connotes the arrest of any attempts at hegemony by any foreign power, and is crucial to U.S. security interests into the twenty-first century.



The historical lack of serious military threat in and from the southern part of our Western Hemisphere (bar the Cuban missile crisis), has been a great advantage — for this has promoted deployment of U.S. forces to other, less stable regions of the world, i.e. Western Europe, Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

Thus, as long as we continue to keep a secure southern flank, we are assured that our forces elsewhere will not be diverted.

Furthermore, U.S. economic interests must be preserved in Latin America (that is to say the Caribbean Basin plus South America) so we may continue to prosper. Latin America has oil, raw materials, markets for U.S. products, investments for U.S. capital, and Latin America is one of the world's fastest growing regional economies

(about the size Europe's was in 1970). In addition, those deposits of raw materials in Latin America would be vital in the event of war (in fact, during World War II, Latin America was our primary supplier of anti-munroe, bauxite, copper, iron, etc.)

You may ask: "Why are these raw materials vital?" Well, God only knows what will happen in South Africa where many of the same strategic minerals are found. And as for Asia's strategic mineral supplies, let's put it this way: The Soviets' presence on the Eurasian land mass seriously jeopardizes our chances of receiving vital resources from this area.

If you do not believe me, I suggest you read Amos A. Jordan and William J. Taylor's book titled *American National Security*. This book will clear up any misconceptions as to the validity of my previous statements.

Now, knowing the importance of Latin America in the realm of U.S. national security interests, my question is, how should we continue to apply the Monroe Doctrine so as to assure a peaceful and secure southern flank (so our forces will not be diverted from other parts of the world), and prevent any attempts at hegemony from any nation other than the United States?

Obviously, there is no single answer that is necessarily correct. However, I believe the answer lies in the Caribbean Basin. Naturally, most people will assume that I am referring to El Salvador and Nicaragua, but they are wrong (El Salvador and Nicaragua are topics for future columns, but not this one).

I am referring to Cuba... yes, Cuba! Hence, my sub-question: how do we prevent

Cuban hegemony (vis a vis the Soviet Union) from subverting our security objectives in Latin America? (Again, when I say Latin America I am referring to the Caribbean Basin as well as South America.)

An A-bomb? It would be effective, but the liberals and sissies would cry. An all out invasion? Good idea, but too costly. Covert subversion? God help me I love it so, but I believe Cuba just isn't the place. The best way to protect our interests?

Slow, cautious, methodical, shrewd, and above all covert contacts with Castro's regime so as to bring about, eventually, a rapprochement between the United States and Cuba?

How? Covertly send someone like Kissinger (or preferably Henry K. himself) as an ambassador of good will, and work out an arrangement like he did with China. Could this be done? Absolutely. How long might such a plan take? I don't know, but I do know it would be no easy task.

By now you are probably asking "But why?" Simply stated: I believe it is in our best interest over the long haul. Obviously, and quite honestly, a rapprochement with Cuba would not be an overnight proposition; it would be a long, tedious, and arduous task, but definitely worthwhile. If we give Cuba the chance to have relations with U.S. (on our terms, of course!), there is a damn good chance they will no longer rely as heavily on the Soviet Union. In fact, Cuba might even become more independent.

However, as a process of normalization progresses, we would have to be prepared for any stunt Castro might pull. We would have to be firm and allow nothing to bend our iron will. We must keep in mind that

this would take time and energy to manipulate a rapprochement to our liking, but it could be done.

In fact, there are precedents, i.e. China. Of course China was a different story, but normalization was effective. Obviously, Cuba is not as much at odds as China was before normalization, but the seeds are there. If properly executed, we could over the long haul put Cuba at great odds with the Soviet Union, and subsequently prevent or eliminate the spread of communism in Latin America.

Castro is not that much unlike the late Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia. Overall, Castro follows the line much better than did Tito, but Castro is more or less an independent too. At least he's more independent than the Soviets would like. Don't misunderstand. Castro is no naive school boy, and neither is he stupid. He's a shrewd dictator and an opportunist.

He knows the Soviets have a first-rate economy and can't give him everything he wants. He knows we have a first-rate economy, and can give him virtually anything he wants (he also knows we won't). But if he plays ball, so will we.

Let us not be naive; Castro will not walk right out of the communist camp. However, he can be more independent, and we can use him to prevent the spread of communism in Latin America. And we can use him as a thorn to stick in the Soviets' side.

Michael A. Moyer is a senior majoring in political science and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*. His column appears on alternate Thursdays.

reader opinion

Tickle my taco?

While looking through my copy of *The Daily Collegian* this morning, I came upon an ad for Pedro's Restaurant. The ad consisted of a picture of a bikini-clad young woman, seductively posed, with the caption "Tickle My Taco." I found this ad sexist and in extremely bad taste. I showed the ad to a number of people in my immediate vicinity (both male and female), and their response was as negative as mine had been.

I have eaten at Pedro's frequently in the past, but I will refrain from frequenting this restaurant as long as they continue to run ads similar to this one. We suggest that others who find this ad offensive do the same thing.

Janie Musick, secretary-agricultural economics
Anne Ishler, instructor-rural sociology
Tara Eisele, researcher, agricultural economics
Dan E. Moore, associate professor-rural sociology
Jane Mease, secretary-agricultural economics

Supports efforts

I am writing this letter in response to Karl A. Kline's letter which appeared in *The Daily Collegian* on September 17. His letter was about the new policies and toughness of the police where tailgates are concerned.

I realize that the end of tailgates means the demise of yet another Penn State tradition. Perhaps the tradition should never have been started in the first place. I believe that there should be no difference in the laws of Penn State and the laws of Pennsylvania.

I think Mr. Kline should examine his attitudes toward what really constitutes a good time at a football game — the alcohol or the game itself. I wholeheartedly support the University in its efforts to end alcohol abuse at Penn State before it starts. They are finally taking a step in the right direction and taking the focus off of alcohol as the only way to have a good time.

Matthew Cheran, junior—rehabilitative education

A better place:

Your life is important enough to make a difference in others' lives and the world

If you'd believe in me, like I believe in you... we could go on endlessly. Give me day, give me a day — I will see you smile. Give me a way, give me a way — just for a little while. — Derek and the Dominos.

I'm often asked what it is I'm trying to accomplish with my weekly column in *The Daily Collegian*. The complete answer, I'm afraid, is more complex than what most people expect, so I usually answer simply, and somewhat facetiously, "I want to change the world."



"John, stop trying to change the world," says my friend and second-toughest critic. "It won't work."

But it will.

In terms of writing, he wants something different than what I have a tendency to offer in my column. He would rather I write light-hearted, off-the-wall, sarcastic columns, which are very effective when done well. But I tend to be more pensive and philosophical. I'd rather ask why the human race wants to freeze in a nuclear winter than why

the Nittany Lion mascot wears white socks. I approach this column as a way to reach you — and ask you to think about how you affect other people.

I realize that a weekly column in a collegiate newspaper cannot bring about the perfect world we're all striving for — we are all striving for a perfect world, aren't we? — but stranger things have happened. If we all try hard enough, it can be ours. I'm no fool.

"John, you are a fool," my friend/critic says. "Who else but a fool would take 18 credits of English in one semester?"

That's beside the point — though I must admit that his point is not devoid of value. Taking 18 credits of any subject is stretching the limits of sanity, and when I look at my class schedule, making the world more livable seems like a far easier goal to achieve. And I believe this column is a small step in the right direction.

Each Thursday, I'm given a certain amount of space to fill on the Collegian's opinion page — I try my best to express my opinions without offending anyone, but many of the topics I write about are topics that many people don't want to think about. However, it's my contention that the world would be a better place if everyone thought about their affect on the world, and that we're someone who, in actuality, we are not. The best you have to offer someone else is yourself, so why create an image? Images are false, and when you live inside an image, you live a lie.

I acknowledge the fact that all of us, no matter how "real" we seem to be, are guilty of hiding behind masks at one time or another — it's natural and human to want to

impress other people. And we're all hypocritical at times.

But when we lose sight of who we really are, it becomes more difficult to see who other people really are.

So how does all of this relate to making the world a better place to live in? It's really very simple. If we are true to ourselves and accept what each of us is, we can then offer to others the goodness we have inside. And by the time each of us accepts our individual goodness, it will spread to other people and, before we know it, we'll make B.F. Skinner a prophet!

This past summer, I was fortunate to meet someone who knows how to make others — from close friends to complete strangers — feel good about themselves, and he does it like no one I've ever met before. He does it well because he accepts who he is. His name is John.

John and I walked along College Avenue one sunny Thursday in July. Along the way, he found a pink carnation. When he picked it up, I asked him what he was going to do with it.

"I think I'll give it to someone who looks like they need a flower today," he said.

We walked up and down College Ave. In what I thought was a mock search to find someone in need of a flower. We passed a lot of people whom John considered to be "happy enough without a flower from me." Finally, Sir John saw a woman standing

alone in front of Landmark Savings. He stopped, holding the carnation behind his back.

"Excuse me, miss," he said. "You have very pretty eyes and I'd like to give you this flower. Have a nice day — you certainly deserve it."

The woman smiled, took the carnation from John, and chuckled. "She probably thought I was giving her a line," John said, "but that's OK. It made her smile."

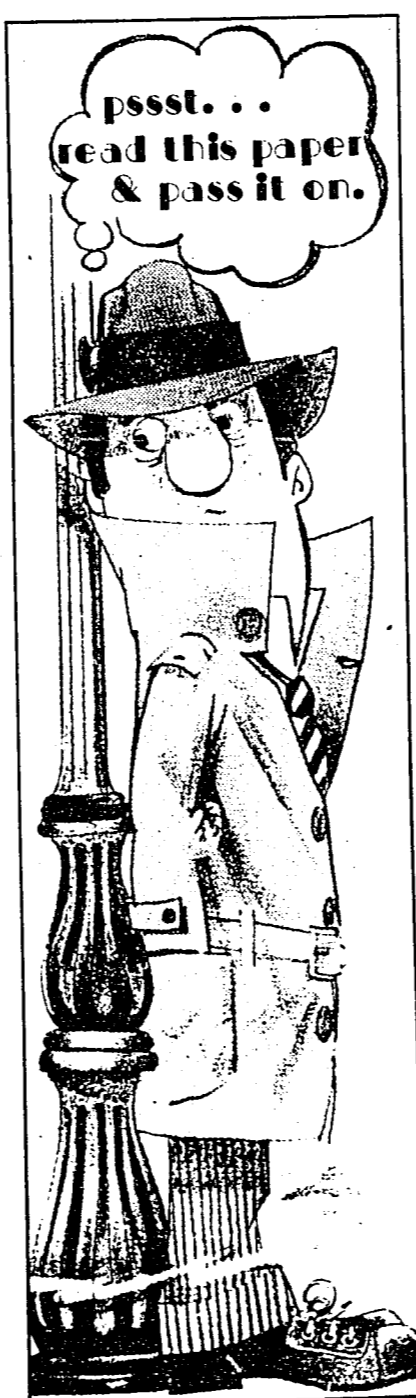
When John sees a quality that he likes or admires in a person, he lets that person know. As a result, he has caused many people to smile and feel good about themselves. "I do it purely for my own benefit," he says, "but if it makes someone else happy, I'll keep doing it. By all means." Now if everyone believed that, imagine how much warmer this potential nuclear freezer would be.

The rewards for making another person happy, as John would tell you, far outweigh the amount of effort it takes to try. We can't be overcome by a defeatist attitude that would prevent us from improving ourselves. We may struggle, and we're sure to make some mistakes, but we have to try.

We may even find out why the Nittany Lion mascot wears white socks.

John Broder is a senior majoring in English and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*. His column appears every Thursday.

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