

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Thursday, Nov. 7, 1985

editorial opinion

Bleak as the weather

The rain has stopped, the polls have closed and ballot boxes have been stacked in a dark corner of the Bellefonte County Courthouse. It's too late for voters — they must now accept the results of Tuesday's election.

In the general election, an estimated 38 percent of Centre County's registered voters turned out to make their voices heard in local elections. Only 38 percent, compared to the 79 percent who rallied last year to elect our nation's president.

For campus, voter registration officials tally the student voter turnout as follows: ● Center and South Halls — Stephens Lounge — 5.95 percent of 1,110 registered students.

● Pollack/Nittany — Pollack Dining — 7.77 percent of 1,119 registered students of area.

● East Halls (State College borough) — Findlay Dining Hall — 8.73 percent of 1,134 registered students.

● West Halls — Hamilton Lounge — 8.6 percent of 782 registered students.

And students voting at Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity reported 25.85 percent turnout.

Turnout was as bleak as the weather. Everyone can speculate on why students don't vote. One of the most common beliefs is that students are lazy slobs, who only live in State College for four or five years. Why

would they take time to vote? Then there's the lame excuse that "my vote won't make any difference." Well, a vote can make a difference. In fact, 37 votes made the difference for the third borough council seat.

A group of Centre County registered students voters could make a big difference in who sits on Municipal Council.

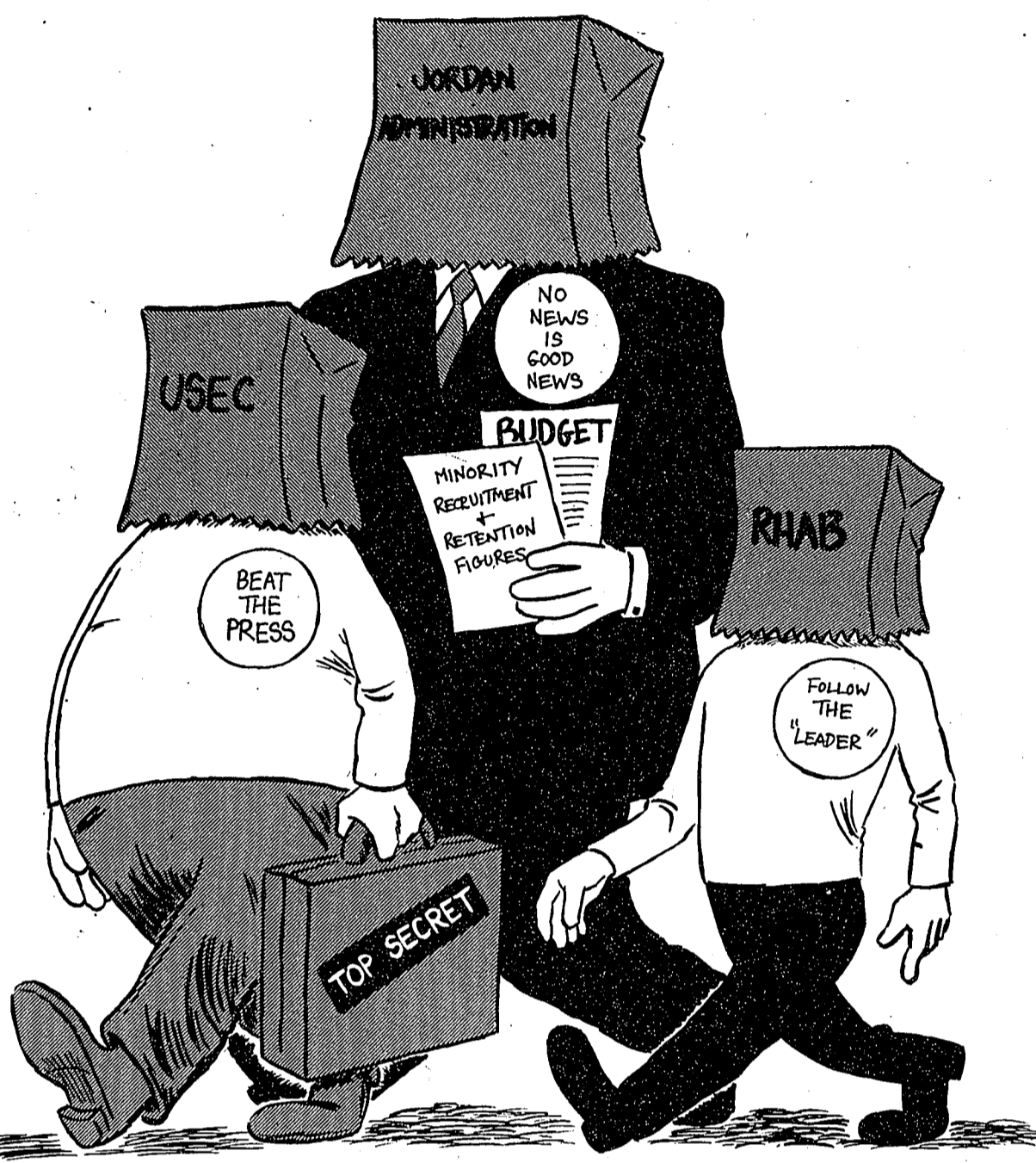
Student groups tried to register voters, but there's a big difference between registering and voting.

Students had the chance to make their voices heard on Tuesday, but most didn't take advantage of that chance. The numbers show students seem to be content to let other voters make their decisions.

Remember that chance you had Tuesday in the future when council changes the noise ordinance, apartment regulations or tries to get rid of your favorite spring fun run.

How much students value their vote is directly proportional to how satisfied students are with the degree of control the municipal council exerts over their personal lives.

It seems a college education has not afforded its students one of the most important lessons of all: self-government doesn't start with your complaints — it starts with your vote.



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reader opinion

Wrong

This is in reference to the article that appeared in the campus brief section of *The Daily Collegian* on Wednesday Nov. 6, relating to the Hellenic society sponsored lecture on "Cyprus and Greek-American relations." The article included gross misrepresentations that were particularly embarrassing to me as the president of the Hellenic society and the society as a whole.

The article gives the impression that the entire island and its whole population are under Turkish occupation. That is wrong. What I had indicated is that 40 percent of the land of Cyprus is under Turkish occupation and that the Greek-Cypriot inhabitants of that area had been expelled and have been transformed into refugees in their own country. In addition, Turkey has been bringing settlers from Turkey to the occupied north part of Cyprus in an attempt to alter the demography of the island, which has always been predominantly Greek.

What was even more embarrassing is that I was quoted as saying that the Cyprus problem is one of minority rule. That is not true. I had stressed that the essence of the Cyprus problem is the Turkish occupation of the north part of Cyprus, the Turkish expansionist plans against Cyprus as well as foreign interference.

Furthermore, I was quoted as saying that the U.S. is neutral at this time because Turkey is a NATO ally. I never made such a statement. On the contrary, Greek-

American relations have been strained because of what the Greeks perceive as a pro-Turkish tilt in U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. has unilaterally tolerated, to say the least, Turkish designs on Cyprus. For example, while the U.S. constantly condemns the soviet invasion of Afghanistan, we hear nothing about Turkish violations of human rights and international law in Cyprus.

Andrew Theophanous, president of the Hellenic society Nov. 6

Please return

A banner on campus promoting the "GREAT PITT-PENN STATE BLOOD DONOR CHALLENGE" "disappeared" on Nov. 5. It was hanging at the top of the mall, from the trees, off Pollock Road. Funds for the banner were generously donated by community businesses who recognized the great need that the blood challenge fills in keeping our blood banks at a safe level. If the individual(s) now in possession of the banner would please return it to the HUB desk, no questions will be asked. The blood drives for the "Challenge" run today through November 20th, so it's immediate return will be appreciated! We only want to promote a worthwhile event that our whole community will benefit from.

Cornie Schroeder, Campus Coordinator American Red Cross Nov. 6

Write please

Although half of Fall Semester is over, many interesting issues in Happy Valley still remain unresolved — what's your opinion?

The Collegian's Board of Opinion is interested in what the Daily Collegian's readers think and feel about the issues affecting Penn State.

Authors should bring letters-to-the-editor (one typed page, double-spaced) or forums (up to three typed pages, double-spaced) to the office of *The Daily Collegian* in 126 Carnegie Building.

All submissions must be signed, include semester standing and major and include your phone number. Picture identification is required with all submissions.

Op/ed: Rockview

As Nov. 19 draws near, the State Correctional Institution at Rockview will become the focus of a great deal of controversy.

Opinion Editor Doug Popovich wants to know what you think about the use of the death penalty. On Wednesday, Nov. 13, *The Daily Collegian* will publish an op/ed page with your views on this topic.

If you have an opinion you'd like to share, present it in the form of a letter-to-the-editor (one typed page, double spaced) or forum (no more than three typed pages, double spaced) by Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 1 p.m. in the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie Building. Letters and forums must be presented by the author in person.

EPIDEMIC

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Thursday, Nov. 7, 1985
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Gail L. Johnson - Karen Jarot
Editor Business Manager

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126 Carnegie Building; University Park, Pa. 16802. Names may be withheld on request. Letters may also be selected for publication in *The Weekly Collegian*.

Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager. If a complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, grievances may be filed with the final grievance committee of Collegian, Inc. Information on filing grievances is available from Garry Lynn Hamilton, executive secretary, Collegian, Inc.

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campus briefs

Personnel V.P. resigns

Ray T. Fortunato, University assistant vice president for personnel administration will retire Jan. 3 after 37 years of service.

Fortunato, 62, said he plans to establish a State College consulting firm in higher education personnel administration.

"I have done a good bit of consulting," he said. "In all cases it has come to me. It has been in personnel administration, but primarily higher education administration. I'm going to see what happens when I go looking for consulting work."

Fortunato began at the University in 1948 as employment manager. He was named director of employee relations in 1956 and became director of the department of personnel service and employee relations in 1960.

He was named assistant vice president of personnel administration in 1971.

Fortunato holds an undergraduate degree in business administration and a master's degree in music composition.

He is a past president of the National College and University Personnel Association and received the organization's Donald Dickson Award in 1972, the Dietrich K. Wilers Award in 1979 and the publications achievement award in 1982 and 1983.

—by Damon Chapello

Judge to reconsider Comitz sentence

The judge who sentenced Sharon Kay Comitz to eight to 20 years in prison with psychiatric treatment for murdering her infant son, said yesterday he would listen to arguments on whether he should reconsider her sentence.

Centre County President Judge Charles C. Brown Jr., said he has scheduled a hearing for 3 p.m. Tues-

day at the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte to hear attorneys Earle D. Lees Jr. of Clearfield and Richard H. Milgrub of DuBois argue for their client, Comitz.

Brown said he has not already decided to reconsider.

The defense, arguing her sentence should be lessened, will present a recent report on Comitz's mental condition from Dr. Joseph Silverman of Altoona, Milgrub said.

If the judge reconsiders, he will most likely decide the new sentence that day, Milgrub said.

Comitz pleaded guilty in June to the third-degree murder of her one-month old son, Garrett, whose body was found Jan. 4 in a mountain stream near Philipsburg. Comitz told police a day earlier the baby was kidnapped from her car parked at a department store in Decatur Township. Comitz is being held at the Clearfield County Prison.

—by K.J. Mapes

Ag. Career Day to be held today

Three job interview seminars will highlight the fourth annual Ag Career Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the HUB Ballroom.

Event co-chairman E. Richard Lower said the three seminars dealing with "what an employer looks for in an interview" will be at 12:20, 1:25, and 2:30 this afternoon in the HUB Assesly Room.

Ag Career Day is co-sponsored by the College of Agriculture, Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, college alumni and the state Department of Agriculture.

More than 40 agriculture-related businesses will set up displays for the program, said J. Philip Bucher, assistant director of the Career Development and Placement Center.

Speakers at 12:20 p.m. include Gary S. Heckman, Atlantic Breeders Association.

—by James Stewart

New assoc. dean stresses academia

By CELESTE McCAGLEY
Collegian Staff Writer

The new associate dean for graduate studies and research in the College of Engineering stressed quality graduate programming and urged students to consider academic life as a profession.

Thomas Seliga fielded questions recently from students representing 13 University engineering departments and programs at an event sponsored by the Engineering Graduate Student Council and the American Society of Engineering Education.

Seliga, an engineering staff member from 1961 to 1969, served as director of the Atmosphere and Sciences Program at Ohio State University before assuming his new post Sept. 1.

"It's very different from the undergraduate course work type of experience. It was difficult for me to get into the research end of education. It requires a totally different approach and thinking process," he said.

Seliga said he is pleased that graduate students at Penn State have come from some of the finest universities across the nation.

"That's extremely important to Penn State because it's that mix of students and faculty that makes for a very vigorous and exciting university and provides you with career opportunities and experiences," he said.

Seliga said he also stressed the positive aspects of teaching to engineering graduate students.

"I chose the academic life and I haven't been sorry about that. I hope many of you will choose

academia because it gives you an opportunity to work with young people which is always a challenge."

He noted that engineering also needs more women and minorities in the teaching profession.

Industries are attracting people away from academia, Seliga said, and he urged students to consider staying after completing their graduate programs.

Wilbur Meier, dean of the College of Engineering, said one of the college's top priorities is quality graduate studies.

"We're trying to demonstrate this by starting a group such as the Engineering Graduate Student Council, by asking students what they think of our graduate program, and trying to do something to make it better."

"We've made some major improvements in the quality of the programming both in terms of the overall quality of the faculty, the quality of graduate students we have, the intensity and interest that both have and increasing financial support," he said.

"We've got a long way to go but we're making some substantial progress," he said.

Frank Murphy (graduate-mechanical engineering) said it is important for graduate students doing research to meet Seliga for an understanding of his and the entire administration's attitudes.

"From what I can see, somebody like Seliga, who is very accessible to students, really makes the position worthwhile," Murphy said.

"He always answers your questions and he's very helpful. I haven't been sorry about that. I hope many of you will choose

police log

● Fred Burns, presentation services supervisor, 1 Willard, reported Tuesday that a \$300 overhead projector was missing from 103 Ferguson and another \$300 overhead projector was missing from 233 Chambers, University Police Services said.

● Elaine Makepeace, assistant housekeeping supervisor, 21 Redifer, reported Tuesday that someone damaged a window in the Stephens Hall lobby, University police said. Damage was estimated at \$130.

● State College police reported four instances of criminal mischief Tuesday involving pellets being shot: Robert Beam, 120 Hillcrest Ave., reported that someone shot pellets and damaged the glass in his lamp post.

Janette Peikert, 204 Woodlawn Drive, reported that someone shot pellets and damaged her screen and door glass.

Dorothy Heidrich, 433 W. Park Ave., reported that someone shot a pellet through the window of her residence.

—by Tom Schaffner

collegian notes

● The Women's Alliance will present Ruth C. Rudy and Helen C. Wise speaking on women in politics at noon today in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

● The American Indian Student Association will meet at 1 today in 417 Rackley. Frank McKenna will speak on Canadian Indian issues.

● Graduate Students Concerned About Apartheid will meet at 2:30 today in 232 Sparks.

● The Food Science Club will meet at 7 tonight in 117 Bondard.

● The Student Nursing Association will meet at 7 tonight in rooms 4 and 5 East Human Development.

● The College Republicans will meet at 7 tonight in 706 Hetzel Plaza.

● The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America will meet at 7 tonight in 102 Rackley.

● The Paul Robeson Cultural Center will show the movie "Sparkie" at 7 tonight in the auditorium.

● The College of Science Student Council will meet at 7:30 tonight in 317 Boucke.

● The Cycling Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 217 Willard.

● The Fencing Club will meet at 8 tonight in 33 White Building.

CORPORATE DAY '85

"ENGINEERS: INNOVATORS OF THE FUTURE"

SATURDAY, NOV. 9, 1985

WORKSHOPS

1:00 p.m.
158 Willard: HRB SINGER presents: Considerations for making the transition
160 Willard: GREENHORNE & O'MARA presents: Planning your interview

2:00 p.m.
158 Willard: LOCUS presents: Interviewing/The life of an entry level engineer
160 Willard: GE SPACE SYSTEMS DIVISION presents: Challenges at GE Space Systems Div.

3:00 p.m.:
158 Willard: AT&T BELL LABORATORIES presents: Fiber Optics
160 Willard: CORNING presents: Robotics

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8-4:30 Wed., Fri.

Censorship:

Twisted Sister is vulgar and talentless, but they deserve the chance to express themselves

Won't you listen to what the man said?
— Paul McCartney
You pay for your freedom . . . — R.E.M.
It's more important to know how to ask the right questions than it is to think you have all the right answers.
— Author Unknown



You'd think that censorship would be the last item on America's list of "Things to Accompan Today." But in Washington, D.C. — propaganda center of the world and home to that conservative hero Ron Reagan — there has been much ado about "porn rock" and the apparently obscene lyrics contained therein.

A group of women — *Rolling Stone* magazine calls them the "Washington Wives" — formed the Parents' Music Resource Center in an attempt to rid society of the music that they consider "objectional." For some reason, I'm reminded of a man named McCarthy, who in the 1950s, took action to rid the United States of communist sympathizers. And thank goodness he did; otherwise we wouldn't have such an undying paranoia about the Soviet Union and communism (which contrary to popular American belief, are not the same thing).

But the issue is not communism, though censorship in any form is one characteristic of communism — an ideology most of us have been indoctrinated to believe is sinister. And here we are in America, the home of the free and land of the deprived, as the Washington Wives would have you believe, dictating what a bunch of overamplified musicians can sing.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to defend the likes of Twisted Sister, Motorhead, or W.A.S.P. — some of the bands that are in the bull's-eye of the PMRC's target. In terms of social value, their music, and I use the term lightly, is comparably nil. It is

also formulaic, and the bands that make it are virtually interchangeable.

But again, the issue is not whether the music is valuable; it is whether anyone — the PMRC or King Conservatism himself — has the right to declare lyrics objectionable and impose his morality on the musicians who choose to express themselves the way they do — which in most cases is valueless.

As it stands now, the recording industry has given in to some of the PMRC's demands, but some of those demands are out of the record companies' jurisdiction. The companies will not print on all new albums, with few exceptions, warnings of the explicit lyrical content if indeed the PMRC deems it necessary.

While the decision to print these warnings on the back covers of albums is being called "voluntary" on the part of the record companies, I get the feeling that if the PMRC had its way, every one of the 25,000 new songs that are released each year would sound like the theme song to *Little House on the Prairie*.

Yes, the music that the PMRC has chosen to attack is at best devoid of any positive social value. It perpetuates sexist attitudes

and it may yet be proven that such trashy music promotes violence — for all I know, it may even cause cancer, laboratory animals. I will even grant the PMRC that the music they are condemning is too loud.

But then, Rodney Dangerfield is too loud for my taste, and he's an entertainment legend in this country. Has he ever been the subject of a potential Lynch mob like the PMRC? Of course he hasn't, and he's made jokes about alcoholism, sexual impotency and menopause.

The PMRC is not satisfied with the recording industry's concession to put warning labels on albums. It wants to regulate the lyrics of songs that may have references to sex, violence and drugs. In short, it wants to censor what it considers immoral.

If we allow organizations such as the PMRC to get away with censoring the music it finds immoral, where then do we draw the line? If we censor W.A.S.P. for singing "Animal (F-K Like a Beast)," mustn't I also censor Madonna for intimating that she's only "Like a Virgin," or the Thompson Twins for pleading with you to "Lay Your Hands on Me"?

I don't like the music of Twisted Sister,

Black Sabbath, AC / DC, ad infinitum. But I respect the First Amendment and the rights it provides to musicians who want to make idiots of themselves, no matter how vulgar, tasteless and valueless their means of self-expression may be. I don't want some holier-than-thou mental committee deciding for me what music is appropriate or tasteless.

This is America, after all; and it might just be that I define the meaning of America differently than the PMRC. But it seems to me that if we allowed Joseph McCarthy to express his paranoia of communism and George Wallace to express his racial prejudice while he was the governor of Alabama, we also have the obligation to allow terrible music to be made by crude musicians. They can't do any more harm than McCarthy or Wallace.

I simply want the freedom to choose for myself what music is appropriate. What about you?

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

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