

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Tuesday, July 1, 1986

editorial opinion

Ending the hysteria

Suppose you were infected with the virus linked to AIDS and your employer, fearing that you could transmit it to other employees, fired you?

Under a recent Justice Department ruling, if you're a federal employee — it's legal.

Last week, the assistant attorney general decided that federally funded employers who fire AIDS victims based on fear of contagion cannot be challenged under U.S. civil rights laws protecting the handicapped. The ruling came as a result of the growing fear that the AIDS epidemic will continue to spread unless strict regulations are created to isolate victims.

It's just that kind of irrational thinking that has perpetuated public hysteria. This ruling is unfair to AIDS victims and it may set a dangerous precedent for discrimination in other sectors of society as well.

Much research has been done on the transmissibility of AIDS, and medical experts are certain that it cannot be passed on by the casual contact found in the workplace. The Justice Department's decisions will only serve to reinforce the myth that can.

The only way to dispell the fears and taboos surrounding AIDS is through more medical research and public education, not discrimination by politicians.

The line must be drawn somewhere. If this is the way society is treating AIDS

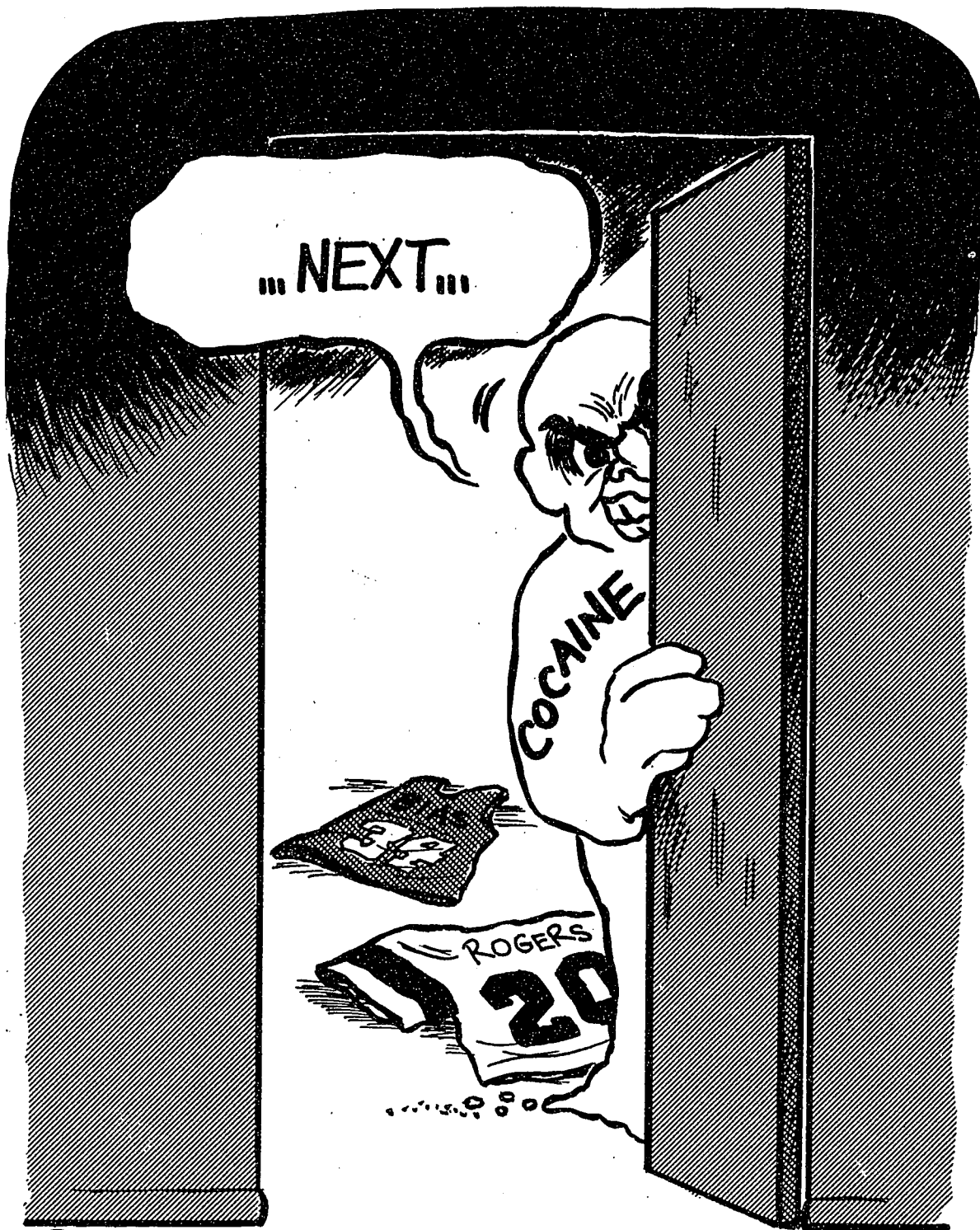
victims now, who's to say how far we'll go in the future. Next we might bar them from using public facilities and attending public schools or even force them to carry passes identifying them as carriers of the virus.

As long as people infected with the AIDS virus are able to continue with their jobs they should have the right to do so. / Moreover, many feasibility questions surround this ruling. How long will the people who are fired have to stay out of work? With the AIDS label, how will they ever be able to get another job? Suppose there is no cure for AIDS for three, four, or even 10 years, will taxpayers be willing to take on the burden of paying for welfare and unemployment compensation for otherwise healthy people?

The voices on both sides of the fence must be heard. One side says it is unfair to be subjected to an environment where a fatal disease may be contracted. However, experts say these beliefs are completely false.

Clearly, AIDS is a serious nationwide problem. According to published reports, it could afflict 145,000 Americans by 1991 and claim more lives than year than automobile accidents did last year.

Federal officials should try AIDS reforms on a national scale, but discriminating against its victims and reinforcing myths surrounding its transmissibility that will create even more hysteria is not the answer. More intensified research and public education is.



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reader opinion

Cruising

I am writing to you to express my feelings regarding a recently passed law prohibiting "cruising."

I called the State College Police Department two days ago to be sure my understanding of the law was correct. An officer there told me the law prohibits passing the same checkpoint more than three times in one hour, or more than six times in three hours. When I asked him how the law would be enforced, he told me the cars, not their license plates, would be recorded.

I would argue that the officers watching two lanes of often heavy traffic will be unable to distinguish between several cars of the same make, model, and color. Logging the car rather than the license plate will

be an ambiguous method of recording the number of times a car passes the checkpoint. This will be especially difficult over a three-hour time period.

It is my expectation that the officers will realize this, and will tend to let these "ordinary" cars slip by. However, since cars with customized paint work or special suspensions will be unique in their appearance, these cars will be more easily logged. Since this method of recording cars will not be equally stringent for all cars, I believe it is discriminatory and violates this nation's constitution. We've remained a free nation because of individual rights guaranteed by our constitution. No municipality should allow laws to be passed that threaten these rights, regardless of how small the threat may seem.

I have become aware of other laws that apply to disturbing the peace in one way or another, and wonder why these are not sufficient to regulate activities along College Avenue. It would seem that police officers would be more usefully employed in activities other than counting cars. However, if the majority of citizens in the State College area believe another law is required that specifically deals with "cruising," I feel they are entitled to one that will be fair in its enforcement.

This letter is quite similar to one I've sent to Mayor Addison, Representative Herman, and Senator Corman, expressing my belief that this law is unconstitutional.

Frank L. Bucek, Jr.
Ph.D. candidate-biomechanics

the Collegian

Tuesday, July 1, 1986
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Letters Policy: The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than one and one-half pages. Forums must also be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than three pages. Students' letters should include semester standing, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the name of the graduate. All letters should be signed by the author. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

notes

• Free University will sponsor a "Satisfying Vegetarian Cooking Class" at 6 tonight in 158 Willard.

• The Science Fiction Society will sponsor a free showing of the movie, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, at 7:30 tonight in 316 Boucke.

• Free University will sponsor a discussion class on "Eckankar, The Ancient Science of Soul Travel" from 7:30 to 9 tonight in 113 Sackett.

• The Graduate Student Association will sponsor a free showing of the film, *All That Jazz*, at dusk (about 9) tonight at Fisher Plaza in front of Kern Building.

• Stone Valley Recreation Center will sponsor a Native American history and crafts program at 7:30 tomorrow night in the picnic pavilion. For more information or to preregister for the program, call Stone Valley at 863-2000.

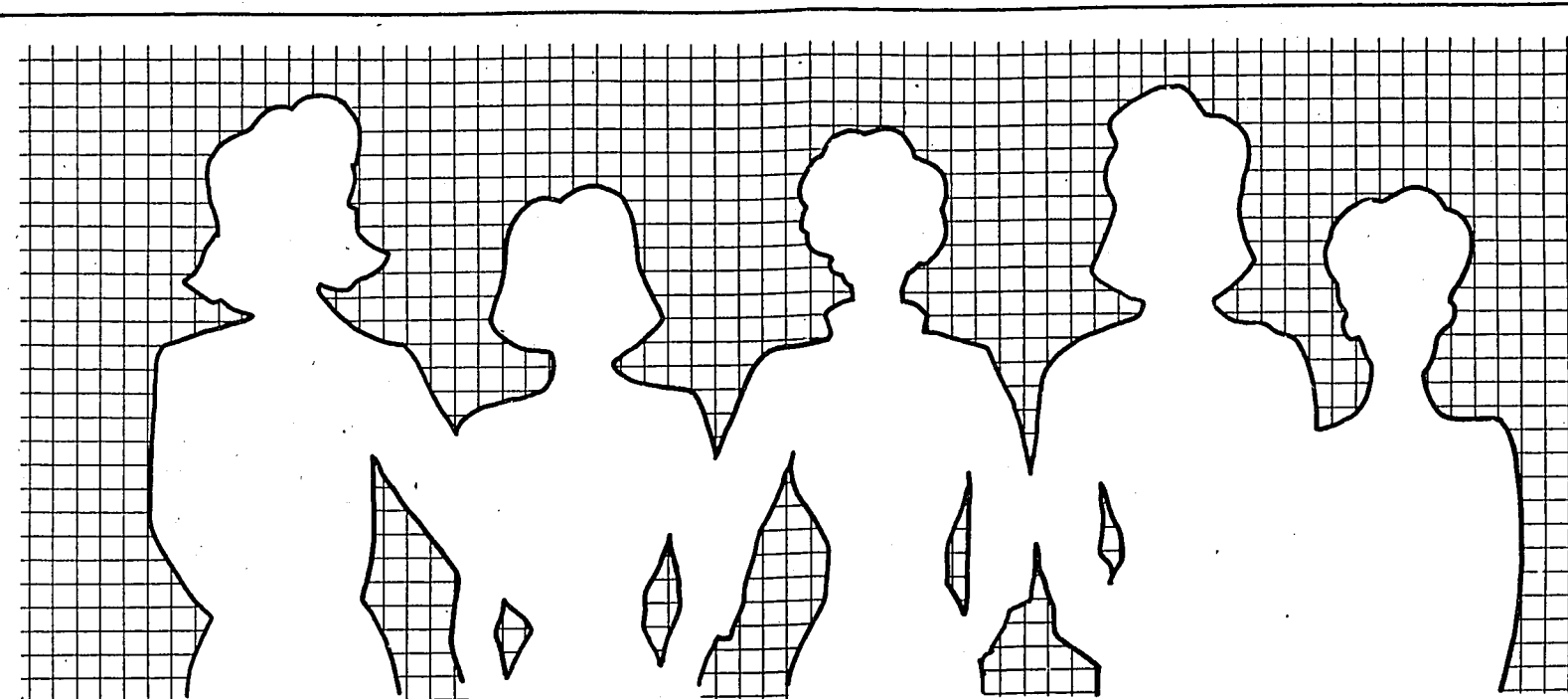
• The Nursing Consultation Center and the University Department of Nursing will offer "Learn-to-Relax" classes beginning Wednesday, July 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The four-week education series will teach relaxation techniques and lifestyle modifications which promote stress management. For information on fees and registration call 863-2202.

police log

• A \$15,900 1982 silver and maroon Corvette was reported missing early Sunday morning from the residence of Thomas Holderman, 143 W. Park Ave., State College Police said. Police Services said the car is owned by Stocker Chevrolet, Benner Pike.

• Six bicycles were found at 240 E. Beaver Ave. Friday by the property owner, State College police said.

— by Karl Hoke



Study finds more women employed

By ALICIA GEMELLI
Collegian Staff Writer

The changing roles of women in society and an increase in the number of service industries in Pennsylvania have contributed to a 90 percent increase in the number of women in the state's work force since 1970, according to a University study.

The study found that 37 out of every 100 people employed in Pennsylvania in 1970 were women. By 1980, that number had increased to 42 out of every 100.

The number of women employed increased in all but two counties — Cameron and Philadelphia. In Cameron, the closing of a key industry caused a population decline of about 6 percent. In Philadelphia, the percentage of women in the work force did increase, but to a 13 percent decrease in population.

Diane McLaughlin, research assistant in agricultural economics and rural sociology and a co-author of the study, said a change in values has resulted in a role change for women.

Women are now marrying later, McLaughlin said, resulting in an increase in the number of single, young women available for employment. "Women now know that they don't need to get

married right away," she said, adding that more and more women can now support themselves.

An increase in the state's service sector and the subsequent decrease in the manufacturing sector have attracted more women to the work force, McLaughlin said.

Anne S. Ishler, a University instructor of rural sociology who also worked on the study, said the service sector now includes personal services such as education, health and repair, finance, insurance, retail trade and real estate businesses — professions that attract more women.

The increase in the number of service professions throughout the country reflects a change in society, McLaughlin said, since people have more money to spend now than they did in the past.

The manufacturing sector — the sector in which men are most likely to participate — includes industries that produce durable goods, such as furniture and machinery, and nondurable goods, such as textiles and foods.

The decrease in the number of jobs available in the state's manufacturing sector is due to the decline of the steel industry, McLaughlin said.

Foreign competition and the movement of manufacturing to the South have caused that decline, she said.

Economic need has also contributed to the

increase in the number of women in the work force, McLaughlin said.

"The definition of needs changes over the times," she said.

Women may now have to work for families to achieve middle-class status, said William Gillis, assistant professor of agricultural economics.

Over half of the families in the United States today have two or more incomes, McLaughlin said.

According to the study, women are also entering the state work force in increasing numbers because there is a 47 percent chance that a first marriage will end in divorce.

Many women must now find employment to support themselves and their children, McLaughlin said.

The decline in fertility rates has also contributed to the increase, McLaughlin said.

With more women and mothers joining the work force, how is this affecting the structure of the American family?

McLaughlin said it is still too early to tell.

What is happening in Pennsylvania is reflecting a nationwide trend, McLaughlin said. The percentage of women in the work force has increased steadily since World War II when women joined the work force to support the United States' efforts, she said.

Listing service helps to relieve housing woes

By CHRIS ZEILER
Collegian Staff Writer

Need a place to live? Having trouble with your landlord? Where would you turn for help?

During the summer, your best bet might be Penn State's Off Campus Housing Listing Service.

Marjorie Utt, president of the Organization for Town Independent Students, said the listing service provides information about off-campus housing, downtown residency, security deposits, lease terms, damage list preparation and roommate selection.

During the regular semester, those topics are handled by OTIS. In the summer, OTIS closes down because of a lack of staff, and the listing service takes its place.

"What we are trying to do is help people locate housing locally," said Charlene Harrison, University director of off-campus programs.

People looking for off-campus housing can use the service's computer, which is regularly updated with rental agency vacancy information to match their needs with the available housing.

In addition to helping people find housing, the summer volunteers offer legal information, with the help of a staff attorney and mediation service, to deal with parties who are not getting along, Harrison said.

For instance, if roommates are having problems or if a renter has difficulties with a building manager, the listing service can help.

The summer listing service is in 101 Boucke and can be reached by calling 865-3491 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Faculty members or staff who know of incoming fall graduate students, either from the United States or abroad, may call the office to request that an off-campus housing information packet be mailed to them.

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The 1986 USA Tour:

Three thousand miles and countless beers later they're still alive and partying

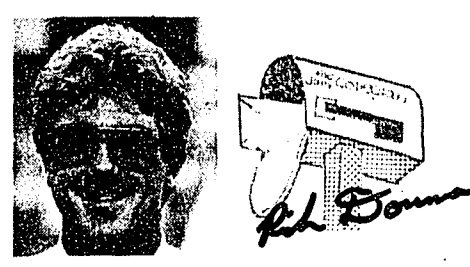
This 1986 USA tour has taken our mobile party through Atlanta, New Orleans, San Antonio, Phoenix and many other places in between. But 3,000 miles and countless beers later, we're still alive and partying. Of course, there have been bad times over the past few weeks, but on a trip like this, you must keep on chugging — beer that is.

Besides a few flat tires in Houston and San Antonio my cross country explorer, Chris, and I have been pretty lucky. And for the most part we've even stayed out of trouble with the law. (We did have a little run in with Officer Bacon when we were driving through Texas at 91 miles per hour. But \$13 later, we were on our way.)

ATLANTA
When we cruised into Atlanta, Chris and I weren't expecting to stay very long. All geared up and ready to see the whole country, we didn't want to make our first stop a long one — maybe one night. But three days later we left with a whole different view of the South.

As soon as we entered the city limits, in search of Emory University, we were lost. With the help of a few different people who literally went out of their way to direct us, we finally found our destination.

We stopped at the Sigma Chi house at Emory, where a few of the brothers invited us to stay in our own air conditioned room. The people we met refused to let us have a bad time in their city. Although we spent the first night exploring some of the city's more famous night spots on our own, the next couple of days were filled with more person-alized events.



P. O. Box America

The second night we were there a group of people we met took us to an Atlanta Braves game. The following day was spent traveling down the Chattahoochee River on a big floatilla of rafts — catching rays, and of course, sucking suds. And the night was spent visiting Atlanta nightspots that only stop a long one — maybe one night.

Many people in the North see Southerners as being lazy, but in the South they see themselves as leisurely and just enjoying their spare time. As one lobbyist we met said, "In the North, people work for money, but in the South they work for their leisure time." Not only do Southerners enjoy their leisure time, they want to make sure that everyone around them is having a good time also.

The last night we were in Atlanta I told one of the guys we were out with how incredibly nice everyone had been to us. His response was simple, yet sincere: "We want you here."
Southern hospitality is real, not just an

expression. In the South, people find pleasure in helping others — even strangers — and making sure they have a good time. What a concept. It's too bad people everywhere don't have the same attitude. Maybe everyone should visit the South, it does rub off a little.

NEW ORLEANS

Tourist trap and party-er's dream — that's what you'll find in the French Quarter and, of course, Bourbon Street. It's legal to walk down the street with a beer as you go from bar to bar on Bourbon Street, and you can ride the streetcar out of the French Quarter, so there's no need to drive. But, after two days of beer, hurricanes and Cajun food, we were barred out and ready to head to the next city on the tour.

TEXAS
Many states have mottos: "You've got a friend in Pennsylvania" and "Virginia is for lovers." After visiting Texas, we came up with one of our own: "Don't mess with the Lone Star State, it's too big." When driving through the state, all you can see is miles and miles of open country — and occasionally a few oil wells. The country-side is expensive, but in Texas, everything is BIG.

For instance, the bars aren't intimate little gathering places where friends meet, like you might find on the East Coast. In Texas, today's bars are descendants of the old dance halls, and in fact, that's what some of them are.

All good tourists check out the cultural aspects in each region they visit. So we

decided we had to take a look at the bars when we were in San Antonio.

Wearing jeans, a bright red cut-out baseball shirt, and "Vans," I was concerned that I might not be dressed properly to do some foot stompin' and shit kickin' Texas style. But the people we were staying with told me not to worry because no one would care about what I was wearing — wrong answer.

When we got to the first bar — a big cowboy hangout called "Jus' Country" — we almost didn't make it inside. "Now friend that's a real nice shirt you got on, but we usually ask ya to wear a collared shirt," the bouncer said politely. After a little protest, he let us in. We weren't big on the western music and we didn't know the only dance people were doing, the Texas Two-Step, so we took off for a few, more progressive bars.

The restaurants are as big as the night-spots. We couldn't pass through the Lone Star State without eating the barbeque ribs and Texas chilli. After chowing down on big ribs in Houston, we moved on to the Texas Chilli Parlor in Austin. That place made sure I didn't leave the state without something to remember. In fact, I remembered their chilli all the way to Arizona.

You have to look out for "favors" when traveling through Texas. Right after we "picked up" a nail in one of our tires, two guys in a pick-up truck pulled up to see if we had a spare. Thank God we did, because sure I didn't leave the state without something to remember. They looked like they just wanted to play.

We finally got the tire fixed at a service station. They did us a "favor" by selling us

a tube for the tire, but one problem — they didn't take the nail out. By some miracle we made it to San Antonio, before the tire was flat again, where a service station mechanic did us another favor. He sold us a new tire. "Remember where you got your big favor," he said with a strong Mexican accent. Thanks, but I hope I don't get too many more of these Texas favors, they're too expensive.

Even the cockroaches are big in Texas. But the pride of it's people is probably the biggest thing. They consider themselves Texans first and foremost; then Americans if they have the time. Texas is the place to be, just ask any Texan. But remember, "Don't mess with Texas"

PHOENIX AND POINTS WEST

Driving two days in the desert without air conditioning can be a very warm experience — thank God for ice-cold beer. We had a chance to check out Lonsburg, New Mexico, so the trip was rewarding after all. For those unfamiliar with Lonsburg, it's the hotel/motel and restaurant capital of New Mexico. There are 14 motels and 11 restaurants and a couple of gas stations — a typical Southwest town on an interstate highway. The Southwest might be nice in the winter, but it's hell right now.

After a week and a half of traversing the southern half of America, one thing is certain — there's no turning back now. We're California Bound!

Rich Douma is a Collegian staff writer who is currently lost somewhere in America.