

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Thursday, Aug. 28, 1986

## editorial opinion

### To buckle or not to buckle

Pennsylvania residents, like all Americans, value the privilege of being free to make decisions concerning their personal lives.

But pending legislation in both the state Senate and House of Representatives threatens to take away a simple but very important choice citizens face every time they get in an automobile — whether to wear a safety belt.

A bill requiring front seat occupants to wear seat belts or face a fine was passed by the state Senate last October. Before its summer recess, the state House approved a similar bill.

When the recess concludes after Labor Day, the state legislature will meet in conference and vote whether Pennsylvania will join over 20 states in adopting a mandatory seat belt law.

Those in favor of a seat belt law argue that the bill is a sensible and responsible effort to decrease the number of traffic deaths in Pennsylvania.

But these supporters are ignoring the simple fact that a mandatory seat belt law infringes upon one of this country's most basic ideals: an individual's right to self-determination.

Proponents argue that legislation enforcing the use of seat belts is best for all. There is no argument, they say. Seat belts save lives and if legislation is needed to enforce their use, so be it.

But the issue is not whether wearing seat belts actually saves lives — the facts prove it do.

The issue is whether any level of government — local, state or federal — has the authority to make personal choices for individuals.

If lawmakers force citizens to snap on their seat belts today, what kind of laws will people be subject to in the future?

Will the state legislature — in the interest of public safety — vote to outlaw cigarettes and foods containing too much cholesterol or salt because they increase the risk of cancer, heart failure or heart disease?

Such over-legislation of individuals' personal decisions must be deterred.

The solution to decreasing traffic injuries and fatalities will not be found in a law requiring motorists to use their seat belts. The answer lies in increasing public awareness of seat belts' ability to save lives.

The state funding which would be set aside for enforcement of such a law would be better channeled into a comprehensive public awareness program.

Recent media campaigns developed by government agencies as well as auto manufacturers seem to have captured the public's attention much more than a restrictive, yet unenforceable law.

Education and awareness, not force, is the key to persuading motorists to buckle up and protect their own lives.



### Review board needed to examine the 'blatant arrogance' of PSU personnel

By Steven Fondo

I am writing in response to the blatant arrogance displayed by so many of the administrative personnel throughout the Penn State system.

Most times I'm convinced I could have done a more thorough job of bugging them if they'd only let me handle the problems unique to my situation. (You know about those problems that nobody else could possibly understand; like the misplacement of your third copy of a financial aid transcript by someone in the University's Federal Grant Office. Or the registration hold that's been levied against you in lieu of an outstanding \$3 bill.) Where is the line drawn?

Now, how about those long-distance phone bills that pile up in the endless process of cutting through the needless red tape associated with Penn State's administrative policy. (What ever happened to the philanthropic 800 number proffered by so many of the financially sound institutions of University exists fundamentally to "Provide programs of instruction, research, and public service, and thus act as an instrument of self-renewal and development for the Commonwealth") (The Penn State University Bulletin "Mission of the University," 1983-84 edition, page 11).

Penn State does not exist as an end in and of itself, it does not exist for Penn State. Penn State's fundamental purpose is in its continued service to the student! This service should and must be conducted with an air of courtesy by competent and concerned employees. After all, we're paying their salaries.

I'm sure there are people who are reading this who can empathize with the circumstances I'm expressing. Have you ever been outed by a financial aid officer? Slighted by an admissions clerk or registrar? Were you ever frustrated by the total incompetence, and ensuing disregard for the blunder, by those individuals assigned to handle your educational needs and related problems?

In citing these issues, I am merely invoking Penn State's advocacy of the "... fostering of independent thought and the discussion of alternatives;" from "Mission of the University." Off hand, I'd say that the fostering of independent thought and the realistic availability of alternatives are sadly monopolized by the various topguns throughout the system.

The general nature of all decision-making conducted at Penn State is rampant with procrastination and petty squabbling. If the needs of the student were given top priority, instead of the ongoing quest to accumulate administrative monies, the task of being a student administrator would be much easier.

Please don't misunderstand me, I realize that it requires exorbitant amounts of money to effectively operate a university the size of Penn State, but if the student population suffers in the process of acquiring funds, then I must stand opposed. When the gala (and expensive) celebration of a Commonwealth Campus' 70th anniversary takes complete precedence over the continued publication of a campus-based student newspaper, then again I must say that something is sadly amiss.

Overall, I have come to the conclusion that the condescending attitude harbored by so many of Penn State's "little people" is simply a reflection of the overriding attitude harbored by so many of Penn State's "big people."

Fondo is the Student Government Association President at Penn State's Wilkes-Barre Campus.

### Forum

I certainly feel it is high time the hierarchy at Penn State be examined and reviews their position and the overall nature of their assignment as public servants to those choosing to attend the University. Penn State University exists fundamentally to "Provide programs of instruction, research, and public service, and thus act as an instrument of self-renewal and development for the Commonwealth" (The Penn State University Bulletin "Mission of the University," 1983-84 edition, page 11).

The students of Penn State should demand that a review board be set up and that the sole responsibility of arbitrating all grievances against any Penn State employee. This board should be overseen by a student representative as well as a member of the University's upper echelon. The board should meet out just retribution to any employee guilty of rudeness, incourtesy or a "nose-thumbing" condescending attitude toward any one student.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm my stance that the student is indeed the chief life spring of Penn State's, chanan, the head of the White House Communications Department.

But the opposition says Cuomo is all style and no substance. They say he showboats and his record as governor is not as good as he says. He also lacks the knowledge of foreign policy, and at times, Cuomo has a classic case of foot and mouth disease, such as the time he said that there was no mafia in the United States.

Way back in 1982, Bradley proposed a program called the Fair Tax Plan, the beginning of tax reform. As similar versions passed the House and Senate, the bills went to a House-Senate conference committee early this year, where they laid in a coma for weeks. Their survival was in doubt until Bradley brought the package back to life. It was Bradley's baby and he was the star.

When the going was tough for tax reform, earlier this year, he didn't abandon the cause, "wrote Fred Barnes in a recent article in *The New Republic*. "If he did, the tax reform movement might have collapsed altogether... He's done what practically every other prominent Democrat pays lip service to."

Bradley, 43, has impressive credentials. He was an All-American basketball player

### Help Wanted

The Daily Collegian is looking for a few good columnists for Fall 1986.

Columnists will be expected to write opinionated, well-written and researched columns for the editorial page concerning issues or topics that are currently capturing the public's attention.

Applications are available in 126 Carnegie Building. The deadline for all applications is Wednesday, Sept. 3, 1986 at 5 p.m. No late applications will be accepted.

Questions should be directed to Opinion Editor Jill Graham or Assistant Opinion Editor Alan Craver in the Collegian office or at 865-1823.

The Collegian is also accepting applications for an editorial cartoonist. You must demonstrate good drawing ability along with a perceptive grasp of current events and the ability to comment on them on a regular basis. Applications are now available at the Collegian in 126 Carnegie Building. The deadline for applications and drawing samples is Friday, Sept. 5.

## Grads learn helpful hints

By VALERIE BAILEY  
Collegian Staff Writer

New graduate students received tips on available housing, cultural opportunities and recreation during last night's seminar "Surviving Penn State and State College."

Charlene Harrison, director of the Department of Assistance Information and Off-campus Programs suggested that students with questions about off-campus housing should consult her department, 135 Boucke Building, or the Organization for Town Independent Students, 101B HUB.

The department has an attorney on staff to answer any legal questions about rental housing in the community, Harrison said.

About 50 of the University's 1,300 incoming graduate students attended the seminar in Kern Building. It was sponsored by the Graduate Student Association.

Graduate students who wish to live on campus can reside at any of the University's four housing facilities: McKee Hall, Nittany Apartments, Eastview Terrace and Graduate Circle, said Luke Talcott, senior graduate council representative.

Each area also has a residence hall association for graduate students, he said. Nittany Apartment's residence hall association is open to both graduate and undergraduate students.

Besides finding adequate housing, graduate students were told that surviving at Penn State depends on pursuing fun activities.

Time for recreation should be considered or burn out could occur over worrying about your thesis or comprehensive, former GSA president Brian DelBuono said.

He suggested attending football games, buying the Artist Series or getting involved in the intramural sports program. Meeting international students and learning about a different culture can also be helpful.

"Get out of your labs, classrooms, and libraries and meet some people and try to discover some of these activities together," he said.

New graduate students were also told that the GSA office, 305 Kern Building, can assist them in finding health insurance.

Honour Health Center offers Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and the Lone State Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan for any grad student, DelBuono said.

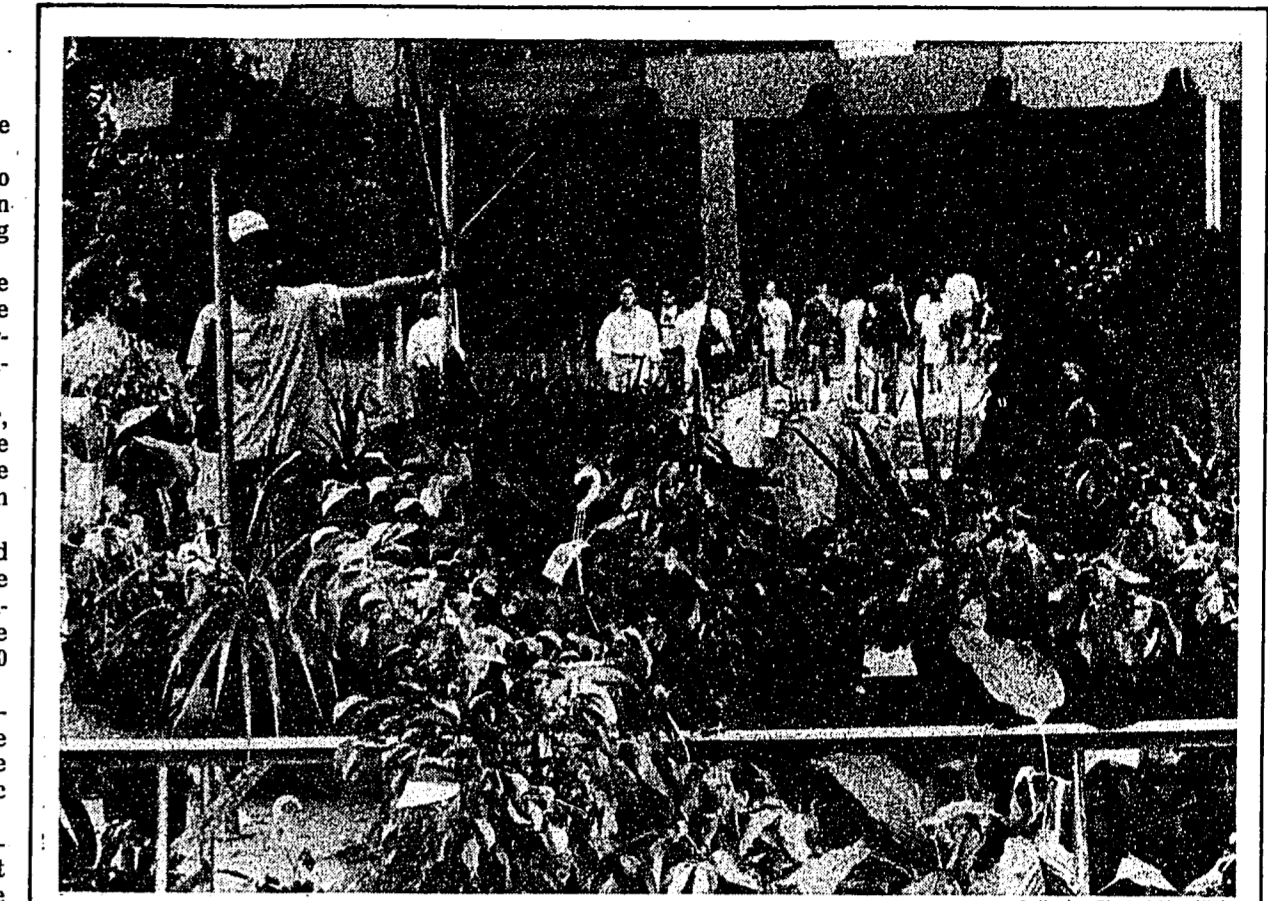
International students, however, may also want to check in the Office of International Students, 222 Boucke Building, because of lower health insurance costs, Talcott said.

GSA President Russ Taylor said the goal of the Fall '86 Graduate Orientation programs is to get students involved with the Graduate Student Association and the other 40 graduate organizations.

In addition to the orientation program, others programs will continue through the upcoming weeks. The program will be an "enthusiastic kick-off for the year," Taylor said.

Other programs listed in the graduate student orientation pamphlet include a "Welcome to PSU/Wine and Cheese Reception" from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. today in 112 Kern Building.

University President Bryce Jordan, deans and staff of the graduate school and the colleges, and members of GSA will attend the reception.



Green-thumb special  
Greenery abounds at the plant and rug sale, sponsored by the Association of Residence Hall Students. The sale is taking place this week on the Mall next to Willard Building.

### Choozy callers; students will decide to buy or rent phones

By MICHAEL CARLIN  
Collegian Staff Writer

Since the breakup of AT&T, students living off campus must decide whether to buy or lease telephone equipment, but they have several special options from which to choose.

Dennis Coleman, account representative with AT&T communication services, said leasing phone equipment is probably the best bet for students who stay at their apartments only during the school year.

Buying a phone can cost between \$10 and \$100, depending upon the model, he said. A standard AT&T phone can be leased at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$3 per month.

If customers do not like the phones they have leased, they can get them replaced, he said. If repairs are necessary, AT&T will pay the cost of repairing them. If a customer buys a phone, it cannot be exchanged and the consumer is responsible for the cost of repairs, he added.

Choices for students are also reflected in a number of local service and special telephone plans available through Bell of Pennsylvania.

A service representative for the company said three types of local service plans are available:

- Unlimited local calling costs \$5.20 per month.
- Standard usage costs \$2.50 a month and allows callers \$4 worth of local calls before a basic charge is incurred.
- A budget rate charges customers for each call.

Local calls cost seven cents from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 2.8 cents at all other times, including weekends, she said.

Since the telephone breakup, Bell takes care of only the telephone lines. It does not cover equipment.

Bell offers several services, including call waiting, which informs a phone user that another person is trying to call; call forwarding, which allows callers to transfer to another number; three-way calling, by which three parties can speak to each another at once; and speed calling, which allows users to program frequently used numbers into the system.

**Correction**

An ad for study lamps, which appeared in Wednesday's issue, bore an improper business name. The 10% discount on study lamps is available at Whitehill Lighting Supplies.

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© 1986 Collegian Inc.  
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Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are necessarily those of the Daily Collegian, Collegian Inc. or the Pennsylvania State University, Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

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 major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

And now, the results of the president's drug test:

## Hedging bets on the presidential candidates, even if the election is 19,582 hours away

It is still early — only 27 months and eleven days or 19,582 hours to go until the election — but the 1988 presidential campaign is already in full swing.

Ever since Ronald Reagan obliterated Walter Mondale in 1984, politicians from both parties have positioned themselves to run in 1988. George Bush is the front-runner for the Republicans and Gary Hart for the Democrats. They are veterans of rigorous presidential elections and are presidential material.

But they will not win easily, if at all.

With all this in mind, I thought I'd tell you who I think the main contenders will be. (This is the same person who took Louisiana State University in the NCAA Final Four last Spring, so I'm hoping for much better luck this time.) There are a lot of names to remember, so just bear with me.

On the Republican side, I believe the nomination is George Bush's to lose. The vice president is the front-runner, but he is no show-in. For him to win he must avoid the Walter Mondale syndrome — that is, saying one thing to one group and something else to another.

His closest rivals are U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, evangelist Pat Robertson and maybe U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, who may be Bush's strongest rival if Laxalt enters the race.

A Laxalt bid would not mean an openers Reagan endorsement for Bush, de-

spite the fact that Bush has been as loyal to Reagan as the Beaver has to Wally. Laxalt has known Reagan for decades and he could throw a wrench into Bush's well-oiled machine. Should Laxalt enter the race, and my prediction is that he will, look for a frantic rush for the nomination.

The Democrats, not surprisingly, face a much rockier road. While the party has its shares of front-runners, the nomination is clearly up for grabs with two years to go, and it is an election the Democrats must win.

The party of Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy has won only two presidential elections in the last 22 years. The Democrats have been embarrassed in both presidential elections in this decade. The time is now to produce a winner.

For the Democrats to capture the White House in 1988, they must nominate a candidate who has solid ideas and who will not

know to special interest groups. He must be able to sell the Democratic message to the American people.

Mesh these factors together and you get two men who can win in 1988. As the long primary season wears on, the two will battle it out.

Both are residential material and possess style as well as substance, charisma and conscientiousness.

If I'm wrong, my track record — which includes picking the Patriots in the Super Bowl, Rendell for Governor and Billy Beer as the nation's best nectar — stays intact.

1. Marie Cuomo, governor of New York. Thruist into the national spotlight with his rousing keynote address at the 1984 Democratic Convention, Cuomo is my front-runner for the nomination. He is charismatic, strong, shrewd and, above all, a leader — you know he's in charge.

2. Cuomo, 54, is the candidate the Republicans fear most because he can woo disgruntled Republicans with his combative, passionate style. Like Reagan, he often talks about the importance of family and his passion for his own beliefs is unquestionably strong.

If he garners 70 percent of the vote in his re-election campaign in November, he will be a formidable candidate in 1988.

He can hold an audience in the palm of his hand and he has the courage to take on right-wing Republicans like Patrick Buchanan, the head of the White House Communications Department.

But the opposition says Cuomo is all style and no substance. They say he showboats and his record as governor is not as good as he says. He also lacks the knowledge of foreign policy, and at times, Cuomo has a classic case of foot and mouth disease, such as the time he said that there was no mafia in the United States.

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fall semester 1986

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come & learn about many penn state registered student organizations

Office of Student Organizations & Program Development and the Student Organization Budget Committee

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at a

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Tuesday, September 9, 1986  
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301 HUB

Meet returning students, German professors, and Education Abroad Staff

offered through Education Abroad Programs