

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 1986

editorial opinion

Parking woes need a long-term solution ...

Ever have the fear you'll get ticketed for "cruising" in downtown State College when actually you're just looking for a parking space?

Downtown parking is just as scarce as a Pitt fan in Lion Country. To ease parking problems, owners who build or add to a facility in the downtown area are required to provide one parking space for every 800 square feet in their buildings on north-south areas.

However, a proposed parking ordinance amendment would permit owners to pay a \$3,300 fee for each on-site space they should provide. This fee would be used toward new parking facilities such as a possible parking garage between Garner and Heister streets.

Although this amendment makes it appear that the borough is planning ahead, it isn't more than a quick-fix that benefits property owners.

It would be some time before enough money is raised to make definite plans for new parking facilities. It seems the State College Planning Commission had that in mind when it made the provision that the money would be returned if no facilities are added within seven years. That would leave the town without both a new garage and on-site parking.

The Fraser Street Parking Garage cost \$4.2 million. Having each owner contribute \$3,300 per space wouldn't put much of a dent in that kind of price for another garage. The means of losing on-site parking just wouldn't have enough impact now to justify that end.

A Centre Regional Planning Commission report stated peak-hour demand at the Fraser and Pugh garages averaged 88 and 81 percent capacity, respectively, in one week. Another report concluded that planning for a new parking facility should begin when peak demand reaches 85 percent capacity.

Clearly, the downtown parking problem cannot wait. The borough needs a long-term solution with greater potential to ease parking woes. Giving owners the option of taking away on-site parking is not that solution.

On-site parking should be provided to make businesses or apartments more attractive to customers. In addition, apartments with on-site parking lessen competition for parking spaces between tenants and downtown employees and shoppers.

Apartment owners who decide to pay the borough's fee will most likely get the money from their most vulnerable source — students. Tenants may end up being double charged — once for the rent increase and again for monthly parking fees.

We hope that when the State College Municipal Council decides how to deal with the parking problem, it keeps the best interests of all constituents in mind and finds feasible long-term solutions.

... and not sour grapes

There's no such thing as a free lunch. So why do some downtown State College property owners think there is such a thing as a free garage?

Twenty-two State College property owners filed suit to challenge the borough's business tax that helps pay for the \$4.2 million Fraser Street Parking Garage.

The properties are part of the Business Improvement District, which is financing part of the construction. The borough is charging those in the district a mere 7.18 percent of the construction cost over a period of five years.

These owners agreed to help pay for the garage "in good faith," Councilman Dan Chaffee said. Now they are saying the garage will not benefit them or their businesses. Why didn't they decide this before pledging to help finance the garage?

The borough built the garage at the request of the business community to help alleviate parking problems. It should not have to foot the entire bill because those who requested the garage now decided they don't want it.



Sanctions Vet

What do you think?

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and area residents concerning issues and topics of interest to the College's readership. With the semester at the half-way point, many important issues confront the community.

Authors must present letters to the editor (no more than 1 1/2 pages, double-spaced) or forums (up to three typed pages, double-spaced) to the Collegian in 126 Carnegie Building.

Students' letters should include the semester and major of each writer.

The opinion editors 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.

opinions

Extinction?

I've noticed a recent trend in The Daily Collegian that disturbs me. It began with Sam Mistrano's "Good earth" on Sept. 19, where Mistrano argued the benefits "if we humans just nuke ourselves out of here, or at least down to manageable proportions."

I dismissed this as the ravings of a freshman, but then on Sept. 25, I read Nan Arens' column, "A Toxic Disaster: Cy Bacteria's Bright Idea." Arens, a senior majoring in Earth Science and Technical Writing, uses early bacteria's production of oxygen as a metaphor for the modern problem of toxic wastes.

"Look, some of you won't make it," the toxic waste producer tells the bacteria facing extinction. That's unfortunate. But the rest of you will evolve and adapt.

I am rather fond of the human race. We have our Hitler's, our Bohas and our microbiology lab instructors, but extinction of the species is not the right solution.

And if anyone out there truly thinks the human species would "evolve and adapt" in beneficial ways after a nuclear war, please see "The Day After," "Threads" and read the articles written by highly respected scientists who say these movies depict scenarios not half as grim as the likely reality.

Then, when we're all convinced that nuclear weapons would end the world, I'll be the first to suggest that we can stop planning what to do when they are deployed and start destroying them before they destroy us.

See you there

This concerns a letter by Colleen Rickenbaugh on the pseudo-apathy of Penn State women toward pornography. My heart is enriched when I come across an article of concern on pornography.

As a member of the USG Department of Women's Concerns, I have united with other students — men and women — and struggled against the horrible pornography that is shown on campus. You might be interested in learning that the department's efforts last Spring helped get USG out of the former Movie Co-Op, thus putting an end to student government support of pornography.

I agree that pornographic films not only strip a woman of her integrity, but also exploit her. I have been concerned with the recent showings of Debbie Does Dallas and agree that these films should not be shown on a campus that supposedly promotes education and equality.

We are not silently supporting these films. During Parhol's "Women's Awareness Week" (Nov. 3 to Nov. 7), the department and the Center for Women Students are co-sponsoring a series of pornography education workshops similar to those we sponsored in the Spring. We need more people like you. Come to one of our meetings.

The department is also involved in educational programs on sexual harassment, domestic violence and rape prevention. We meet every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in 120 Boucke Building, the Lounge of the Center for Women Students. I look forward to seeing you there.

PENN STATE SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

IN CONCERT
WEDNESDAY OCT. 8 IN SCHWAB AUD.
FREE ADMISSION
WORKS BY:
NIXON, PERSICHIETTI, BENSON

Religion:

We must question the motives of people who use Jesus

My life, Jesus and tequila. I'm satisfied and I can't deny it. — The Minutemen.



In my dreams come visions of nocturnal tennis matches with Jesus. We're playing a friendly match down at the local municipal building in my hometown. He's wearing a loincloth, and ironically enough, has a wicked serve. It is one set in the third, and Jesus appears to be taking the upper hand.

Being the pest I am, I annoy others by relating my strange dreams to them. People actually listened to me this time, though, sensing the eternal consequences of associating with a deviant like me.

Almost everyone expressed hope that Jesus would win the match. I countered this with: well the next time they were down at the bars and I was with them, they can just pray for a beer since it would be a hockey game in hell before I buy one. (I relate religion with sports since I've never been all too good at either of them).

Even my mother hoped that Jesus would win, even though defeating Jesus in tennis would certainly lead to a high paying job somewhere. Maybe AC/DC would hire me.

This pressure on Jesus to win surreal tennis matches surely must stem from His most recent Americanization. America is No. 1, and by gum, it's leading messiah better be too.

Jesus here. You know, after 40 days in the desert you work up a right powerful thirst. But you don't want to get filled up before taking on the prince of darkness.

Jesus could stand some work on His current market image. Sure, He's established some terrific brand loyalty among many of us, but there are still too many of us willing to try any brand-X religion that comes down the pike. At least He won't be shifting His production to Korea any time soon.

I hear things like this from loud television men driving for votes and loud men on street corners driving me crazy. They tell me that Jesus is loving and ever so merciful and that I am going to burn in hell forever if I don't believe it.

Jesus is on nautius these days. He's collaborating with Sly Stallone to film the upcoming blockbuster, Rambo and Jesus Send to Hell the Commie Druggie Porno Countries. Coming to a Banana Republic in your hemisphere.

It is my prediction that the second coming will occur soon. Don King will purchase the exclusive rights. It will make the 1984 Olympics look like the Podunk County Bowling and Beers Fest.

A stadium will be constructed on what was once the state of Oregon with 250 million seats so every American can be there. Admission will be \$1,000 apiece, with half going to appease the deficit. Heavens Angels will stand guard to kick

out the gate crashers. For the opening act, every pop star will sing a song called Jesus, Well Gosh You're So Awesome, written by Sting and Phil Collins.

Next, Evil Kneivel and a cow will jump over the moon in a Harley. Naturally, it will not work. Jesus will emerge from a wall of light and other really neat things choreographed by Steven Spielberg. (God would do it for free but the unions won't let him).

It will be good. Jesus will feed everyone off of two plates of nachos and four boxes of stale popcorn, make the usual speeches, and then all will leave with their I Heart Jesus T-shirts in tow. (For \$20 each).

Next, Jesus will go on his world tour. Don King will line up other dieties for Jesus to match up with. After trouncing Buddha and kicking Krishna's ass all over India, Jesus will meet the ultimate test, Allah and the Islamic Holy War for better television.

Don King will purchase a moon of Saturn from Donald Trump and shuttle us all up there, after numerous blessings of the O-Rings of course.

Call it wild speculation if you will. Stranger things have happened. They're happening right now in fact. The strange thing about it is that no one notices. No one questions anybody about ultimate motives when the tool is religion. Maybe we should.

Brian Schafer is a senior majoring in Health Planning Administration and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His column appears every other Wednesday.

Russian roulette

Playing games with atomic energy may result in another Chernobyl

Last May, while listening to the radio, a news flash interrupted a rambling block of the Grateful Dead to inform listeners that "the worst nuclear disaster in history" had occurred in the Soviet Union.

A friend of mine, who had never been an avid supporter of the Soviets, simply smirked and remarked, "well, I'm glad it happened to them instead of us."

For a brief moment I agreed with him. Scenes from The Day After flooded my mind evoking waves of cold sweat. I remembered seeing the horrors of nuclear radiation. Once zapped, victims lose their hair, start puking constantly, become plagued with a nasty case of the runs and then die agonizing deaths.

After I had calmed down and my initial wave of selfishness had subsided, my thoughts turned to the victims of this catastrophe, the people who live near the power plant in Chernobyl. People who wake up one morning with their whole lives ahead of them and went to bed unsure if they would ever again see the light of day.

To date, medical experts have predicted that 100,000 of those people will die due to the radiation generated from the meltdown at Chernobyl. A handful have already perished, the remaining thousands were not so lucky; they are destined to suffer. Waiting for the unseen cancers to grow and wondering if their unborn children are going to resemble human beings.

Could a situation like the Chernobyl accident in the United States? The obvious answer is yes; it could have easily happened to "us" instead of "them."

Since 1960 more than a dozen serious accidents have occurred in U.S. atomic power plants. The most serious of which happened right here in Pennsylvania, not 100 miles from Happy Valley, at Three Mile Island in Middletown. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission later reported that TMI "came within an hour of catastrophic meltdown."

Unfortunately, TMI is not the only nuclear power plant that should be of immediate concern to us. Pennsylvania has seven atomic plants in operation and is second only to Illinois. If any of these reactors were to meltdown it would not take long for Penn State students to get much more than their recommended daily allowance of radiation.

Of course atomic energy advocates and officials would like us to forget about the close calls of the



reader opinion

Defense

My, what a curiously defensive air has pervaded The Daily Collegian opinion pages recently in regards to U.S. Rep. Bill Clinger. Not that Clinger has done or said anything that might cause him or his supporters to be defensive.

One student's letter makes positive reference to Clinger's "support" for students by dredging up H.R. 4243, a bill that Clinger introduced last Spring that would — if passed through the committee, not tabled or crushed by vote — exempt certain financial aid programs from being cut by Gramm-Rudman.

The truth about this bill is that it is Clinger's voter-conscious (Penn State/State College is a key area) attempt to reconcile himself with disgruntled students after he helped pass Gramm-Rudman, which drastically cut Guaranteed Student Loans.

Clinger has nothing to lose by this flip-flop. He voted with his party on Gramm-Rudman and then was able to make himself look innocent by submitting H.R. 4243, which he knew would not pass, nor cause waves.

Whoever thinks that Clinger actually lobbied for and wanted H.R. 4243 passed is naive to the way politics are often conducted.

Joshua First
Junior-political science/Spanish

It's your future

Recently, The Daily Collegian published two articles concerning John Stockwell, the highest-ranking former CIA case officer to go public with his knowledge.

The review article seemed to downplay the validity of his statements. Everything that he talked about has been documented in one or more of the books that he mentioned. These are books which the CIA has censored for false accusation. What remains is what the CIA could not prove incorrect before legal witness. We have a list of those books at Colloquy.

The second article was published Wednesday and it expressed the CIA's response. The CIA said certain allegations were false, but would not say which ones. I expected this as not responding would be an almost admission of guilt, but all they can say is "we didn't do it."

They can easily deny torturing people and controlling heroin supplies, even though major global organizations have documented it. Who would believe that an American agency could do these things? Only commies and terrorists are capable of that is the American belief. And that is precisely how they get away with it.

Read these books. Find out why your government does these things.

Katie Friesen
Senior-Business Logistics

FRICITION

Original Rock TONIGHT! AT The Scorpion

conserve energy

CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS
BY SAM SHEPARD

There's a starving class of people and we are not part of it.

THE NITTANY LION INN

2nd, 3rd, 4th Place Winners each Receive A Stephen King Novel of their choice

Penn State Bookstore for details

Win A Dinner for two At THE NITTANY LION INN

2nd, 3rd, 4th Place Winners each Receive A Stephen King Novel of their choice

Penn State Bookstore on campus

— Contest Ends on October 31st —

Presented by The Pennsylvania State University Resident Theatre Company

The Pavilion Theatre October 3, 4, 7-11, 14-18
Curtain Times 8 PM Student Preview October 1

Tickets available at the Playhouse Ticket Office or by calling (814) 865-1884.

Some audience members may find situations and language offensive.

THINKING ABOUT LAW SCHOOL?

On Thursday, October 9th, Professor Edward Haughney of the Dickinson School of Law will be on campus from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

If you would like an appointment with Professor Haughney to discuss law at Dickinson, please contact the Department of Political Science in 107 Burrows Bldg., 865-7515. Monday through Friday, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

VISIT HARNER FARM

Open Daily till 6
Open Sunday 1-5

Intersection of West College & Whitehall Road

Literary Horrors

A contest you can win!

Match the Stephen King Book (title and page number) to the Quotations on the Contest Entry Form

Come to the **Penn State Bookstore** for details

Win A Dinner for two At **THE NITTANY LION INN**

2nd, 3rd, 4th Place Winners each Receive A Stephen King Novel of their choice

Penn State Bookstore on campus

— Contest Ends on October 31st —

Practice mental hygiene - read Collegian Sports!