

opinions

10
The Daily Collegian
Thursday, Oct. 9, 1986

editorial opinion

Jekyll-Hyde criminals

Dear Diary,
The date was a nightmare. Dinner, movies... he seemed like such a gentleman! Back at my apartment, he started making moves on me. I kept saying no, but he just wouldn't listen. He raped me.
I don't know what I did to provoke this; maybe I led him on. I don't know how I'm going to face him tomorrow in class. God, why did I let this happen?

Tragically, most date rapes are never reported to the police. Instead, they are kept in the confines of diaries or locked up in the minds of victims forever.
These rapes are perhaps the most frightening because the rapist is an acquaintance of the victim — such as a friend or boyfriend — whom she thought she could probably trust.

A recent student survey at the University of Akron, Ohio, showed that 35 percent of the male students responding would rape if they could be certain of not being caught.

In addition, 30 percent of the female college seniors surveyed in 1985 had been forced to have unwanted intercourse at some time. Only 40 percent of the women in another survey who were victims of rape or attempted rape ever told anyone.
Date rape must not be treated like a skeleton in the closet, and victims must realize there is no reason to protect a rapist. This guy is no friend and shouldn't be treated like one.

Society must be sympathetic to the very real fears of the victims of rape and must encourage them to reveal the rapist so that justice is carried out.
It is very demented logic to think that a victim would actually ask to be raped.

Unfortunately, though, victims may rationalize that it was their fault or that they invited the crime, especially when the rapist is an acquaintance.
This idea is even more terrifying when one realizes that the justice system upholds and enforces it as a cause of rape.

If a woman does get the nerve to report the crime, she is often badgered in the courts. Too often, rapists are let off with no or little punishment, giving them carte blanche to commit the crime again and again without fear of retribution.
A rape victim experiences many emotions: fear, confusion, paranoia, insecurity. No one wants to feel this way; no one wants to be sexually violated.

Something is wrong with a society that discourages rape victims from reporting the crime or doesn't support those who do. Rape by an acquaintance cannot be considered "just a little secret between you and me."

These Jekyll-Hyde criminals who wander our streets and live the lives of undercover rapists must receive the punishment they deserve. But the only way to do this is to break the victims' code of silence.



reader opinion

Rightful blame?

The editorial in the Oct. 7 edition of *The Daily Collegian* is very puzzling. How is it that anyone blames the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity for the actions of one individual, namely Stacey Paris?
When one drinks, whether to excess or not, should it not be assumed that no one is going to force one to drink against one's will? There should be no intrinsic evil in drinking; that's just social/religious dogma without any real basis. The emphasis should be in the curbing of abuse, and in this case, Paris was the abuser.
It is still so that TKE did break a law in serving a minor, but as this is an unenforced law, the fraternity was remiss only in that it did not take the law itself to court to have it repealed as should have been done.

Peter DiGiiovanni, sophomore-liberal arts
Complaints: News and editorial content 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 Accuracy and Fair Play Committee of the Collegian Inc. Information on filing grievances is available from Gerry Lynn Hamilton, executive secretary, Collegian Inc.

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.
Mail other letters to: The Daily Collegian, 126 Carnegie Building, University Park, Pa. 16802.

Word choice
I am writing this letter to *The Daily Collegian* in order to get some doubts clarified about common grammatical errors. I hope you will publish this letter.
In this letter I wish to point out some common grammatical mistakes which are found in the *Collegian* and which are often made by the public in their daily life.

The Daily Collegian is published Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the summer, and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the semester. It is distributed on the University Park campus. The Weekly Collegian is mailed to Commonwealth campus students, parents of students, alumni and other subscribers who want to keep abreast of university news.

Similarly, the word "media" is a plural form but many people use it as a singular noun. (Well, one dictionary in fact supports this usage as "a channel or mode of public communication.") When "medium" is the singular form how can media be regarded as a singular noun?
Also the words "minima" and "maxima" are many times referred to as if they are singular forms. Especially when they come in the context of graphs and curves. As everybody knows "minimum" and "maximum" are the singular forms. It is interesting to see how the words get their grammar changed. Probably 30-40 years ago the word "commercial" was regarded as a noun. The word "sanction" means to grant a permission. So its usage in today's news could be somewhat misleading.
It is more appropriate when it is used on the full phrase "sanctions to stop trade with."

All this is based on my (poor) knowledge of high school English. I might be unaware of any modern developments and modifications. If so, may someone take the trouble to throw some more light?
Girish Harsh graduate-solid state science

The real problem
This letter is in response to the column advocating gun control. Legislation on gun control will not deter crimes or shootings as many gun control enthusiasts will have you believe. This correlation between guns and crime is a naive one.
It fails to take into account that people are committing these crimes, not guns. The only way to stop hand-guns is through swift and severe punishment of those who commit such crimes, not by harassing the law-abiding citizen.
If such a law were passed, forbidding the private ownership of handguns, it is feasible to think that criminals, who have no regard for others rights, property or even for human life, will give up their guns?

Lame attempt
In response to your article "USG Plays Minor Politics," printed in the Oct. 2 edition of *The Daily Collegian*, we, the West Halls Council, would like to contest the accusations against West Halls Senator Patrick Devlin.
Devlin is not just part of "some junior bureaucrats... playing minor league politics," but rather a respon-

sible senator representing the needs and concerns of the West Halls residents that he was elected by.
Devlin is one of the most active and service-oriented members of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.
With the overwhelming support of the West Halls Council, Devlin objected to a so-called "bipartisan" committee composed of eight Democrats and three Republicans.
Instead, we, along with Devlin, believe that the entire student body would be better represented by a committee equally composed of Democrats and Republicans.
Lastly, West Halls Council deprecates the attempt to smear the reputation and integrity of Devlin. Moreover, the Collegian has attacked the students of West Halls in a lame attempt to sensationalize the issue at hand.
Mary P. Jarvis Junior-Spanish/business

Janet L. Giardino senior-accounting
I think not.
The only people affected by such legislation will be the law abiding citizens who use their handguns in a safe and responsible manner.
Many gun control advocates fail to mention (or possibly ignore) how saved by a citizen using his gun to protect himself or his loved ones from the violence of a deranged criminal.
I would like to see one tell those people that there is no legitimate reason for the private ownership of handguns.
The National Rifleman's Association is also a frequent target of the gun control lobbyist.
They would have you believe that NRA's sole purpose is to promote genocide, but the facts are otherwise.
The purpose of the NRA is to educate and promote the responsible and safe use of firearms. This is done through publications and seminars conducted at thousands of shooting clubs across the country. The NRA is as concerned as anyone (maybe more so) about the misuse and abuse of handguns.
Congress recognized the necessity of allowing the citizens to keep and bear arms, when on May 16, they overwhelmingly passed into law the Firearms Protection Act. This law ensures that citizens would not be subject to senseless laws that have no effect on handgun crime, but only harass those who are law-abiding.
I suggest that gun control enthusiasts turn their efforts to the real problem: criminals illegally using guns. They can do this by lobbying for stiff, mandatory sentences for offenders.

Remember, members of the greek system participate voluntarily. And if they enjoy the roles they play, if they do not feel degraded, whose business is that but their own? They must make the choice just as we all choose how to live our lives.
Personally, I feel no need to convince everyone to live and believe as I do. Maybe I'm just not altruistic enough for that. Or maybe I'm too American.

Angela Vietto is a sophomore majoring in English and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*. Her column appears every other Thursday.

Excuse and I don't think you realize what you're doing to the reputation of mankind by using it.
People who never have fun should start having some — you make the rest of us look boring.
Some dining hall guidelines: Shut your mouth when you chew. Don't get gross-looking food, then say, "this really looks disgusting" and proceed to eat it. Don't put mayonnaise on your french fries. Breaking any of these rules represents the human race as a bunch of pigs.
If your umbrella breaks, GET A NEW ONE! Don't walk around looking like a friendless waif with rain pouring on one of your shoulders. You look pathetic and you're making the rest of us look like we have no common sense.
Don't say, "I'm so bored. There's nothing to do here." If you're so bored, do something — I don't care what. Go see the shrunken heads in Steidle Building, have a picnic at Atherton's grave, browse through

downtown store, try to scare your roommate to death by hiding in the closet, talk to a squirrel. Just do something — you're making the rest of us seem unimaginative.
Please, oh please, when you're watching a football game, do not start to call the quarterback, whenever he is at the time, filthy names the minute something goes wrong. If you could do so much better, why aren't you out there? You make us all look conceited.
If you're from another state, please do not tell me how boring you hate it here. There are 49 other states, so stop around if you really hate it here that much. By complaining and staying here, you make humankind seem terribly lazy.
Pretty ridiculous, huh? I mean, who do I think I am anyway? But of course, I'm not serious.
But it is really that different from what some people try to do? Like trying to con-

opinions

Star wars

Tom Kronberger's recent column in the Oct. 1 edition of *The Daily Collegian* on the importance of the Strategic Defense Initiative contained enough fallacies to warrant a response.
Kronberger first says, "Keeping in this (small nuclear weapons use), it is a fact that man has never built a weapon he has not used." He later argues that the United States needs to build a deterrent.
It follows, then, according to Kronberger's accurate statement, that we shall use Star Wars some day, and once used, we lose its original purpose (merely as a deterrent). We are therefore doing nothing more than piling weapons upon more weapons.
Secondly, and more importantly, Kronberger's column argues that we must have SDI to protect our country against the smaller terrorist factions who develop nuclear capabilities.

Star Wars will not be effective against most forms of terrorist attack, because most terrorist bombs are smuggled in the trunks of cars or in high-speed kamikaze vans.
We can easily imagine weapons detonated from small private planes and boats. Star Wars is completely incapable of handling these methods of attack; I doubt that any small terrorist nation would be capable of launching a warhead missile with a system comparable to what the United States and the Soviet Union now have.

Kronberger's argument is quite faulty; perhaps his original premise (SDI) is a faulty base to start from. Perhaps SDI's other premises — nuclear war, annihilation of the other countries and the suppression of attitudes through force — are faulty as well.
Brian C. Avery graduate-English

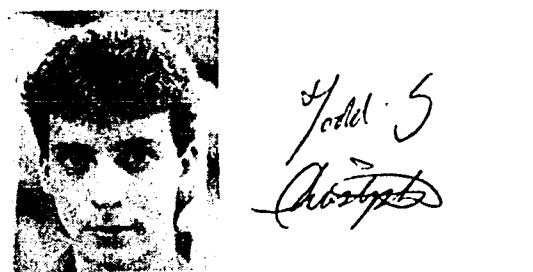
What do you think?

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and area residents concerning issues and topics of interest to the Collegian's readership. With the semester approaching the half-way point, many important issues confront the University. 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. Letters from alumni should include the author's major and year of graduation.
All writers should provide their address, phone number and social security number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people.
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.

Adulthood:

Life doesn't automatically change when the 18th birthday arrives

I guess it was last Wednesday. No, it had to be Thursday because in my last column I outlived Wednesdays, that I stopped by in the morning to see my friend, Bonehead.
Well, Bonehead isn't his real name, but if you knew him you'd never suspect it. He's a first semester freshman in the Division of Undergraduate Students who wants to major in aerospace engineering with a Russian technical translation minor (thus the name).
Anyway, I walked into his room and it seemed obvious that he had just slept through his first two classes.
"Bonehead," I said, "what are doing in bed still?"
"Just let me mention at this point that Bonehead is not a pretty sight first thing in the morning. He was looking especially puffed today."
"Today," he began with a dramatic draw, "I am celebrating the day when I finally became a man!"
"I'm very happy for you. I didn't know you had the money for one of those operations."
"That's not what I meant."
"Oh, is your bar mitzvah tonight or something?"
"No, smart-ass," he replied. "Today is my 18th birthday. Today is the day that I cast away childhood forever and become a man."
He got up out of bed and began dancing around the room like a drunken boxer. Somewhere in the distance blared "Gonna Fly Now." As he stood, arms uplifted, I couldn't help but notice his powder blue boxer shorts with little pink wombats on them. Real manly.
"Our little Bonehead... a man," I sobbed. "It seems like just yesterday your mother and I were changing your diapers."
"I'm serious," he went on. "Finally, I will be



Todd S. Christopher is a sophomore majoring in English and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*. His column appears every other Thursday.

"That's a pretty cynical outlook," he said. "I guess it is, but the whole idea is so stupid. I mean it's all so arbitrary. One day you're in the 365th day of being 17 and then bang you're an adult."
"Well, it's got to happen sometime."
"You're right. But I guarantee that if you went out and ran down Beaver Avenue, nobody's gonna say, 'Look Martha, there goes an adult.' You still look 17 on the outside. Bone. One day hasn't changed anything."
He didn't make any reply. He started picking his toes.
"You see, Bone, you are an adult; you know that, I know that and I guess everyone must know it because they gave you all these wonderful rights and responsibilities for turning 18. But there's something about all this that bothers me."
"And what's that?" he said, inspecting a toe nail.
"Well, you're old enough now to vote and participate in this great democracy of ours. That's true; you're old enough now to have all those social and legal rights and responsibilities, that's true; but you're also old enough to be sent halfway across the world and die a gruesome and painful death for our nation's cause, but still aren't old enough to go down to a bar and have a beer. That's stupid."
Bonehead looked like he just ate a turd.
"Happy Birthday!"
Todd S. Christopher is a sophomore majoring in English and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*. His column appears every other Thursday.

the Collegian

Thursday, Oct. 9, 1986
©1986 Collegian Inc.
Anita C. Huslin Editor
William G. Landis Jr. Business Manager

Assistant Business Manager Amy R. Norris
Assistant Accounting Manager Lori A. Spozzo
Accounting Manager K. C. McClure
Office Manager Amy E. Constantine
Assistant Office Manager Laura Karp
Sales Manager David M. Profocchi
Assistant Sales Manager Glenn B. Rougier
National Sales Manager Kathleen J. Hellman
Layout Coordinator Nancy George
Marketing Coordinator Kristy M. Burgess

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of the Daily Collegian, Collegian Inc. or the Pennsylvania State University, Collegian Inc. Publications of the Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

Board of Editors
Managing Editor Jeanette Krebs
Opinion Editor Jill Graham
Assistant Opinion Editor Alan J. Cramer
Editorial Writers Pete Baratta
Damon Chapple, Donna Sabers
News Editors
Bob King, Doug Popovich
Copy Writers Editors
Sonya Baum, Rich Downa,
Donna Higgins, Sheldon Jones,
Terry Maltzer, Megan O'Matz
Town Editor Phil Galewitz
Assistant Town Editor
Thompson Holland
Sports Editor Coleste McCauley
Assistant Campus Editor Nancy Funk
Campus Editor Mark Ashenfelter
Assistant Sports Editors
Rob Bierempef, Matt Herb
Magazine Editor Chris Raymond
Assistant Magazine Editor
Mark Brennan
Arts Editor Pat Grandjean
Assistant Arts Editor Jill Kosko
Science Editor Keith Orosco
Graphics Editor Tony Ciccarelli
Photo Editor Christy Hickard
Assistant Photo Editor Dan Oleski

Helping the human race:

There is no need to try convincing everyone to live and believe the same way

All right. Things are going to have to change around here.
There are a lot of practices going on here on this campus that I think are degrading to human beings as a race. Because I am concerned about your well-being as a member of the human race, I would like to urge you to think about them.
Men who wear toupees that are obviously toupees or who comb their hair to cover up a bald spot should stop. Please get hold of yourselves. You're making it hard for the rest of us to be taken seriously.
I also think it's degrading to your basic humanity to wear little alligators (or any other bizarre little creatures) on your shirt, sweater, socks or boxer shorts. Stop wearing these, you're making mankind look ridiculous.
Stop naming your children things like "Princess," "Star," "China Slick" and "Moon Unit." While we're on the subject of names, people with names like Tammy and Cindy should stop spelling them "Tam-



Angela Vietto is a sophomore majoring in English and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*. Her column appears every other Thursday.

mi" and "Cindi." Both of these practices represent the human race as feeble-minded.
Let's talk language for a minute. I don't want to hear another person say "I could care less" when what you really mean is "I couldn't care less." And stop calling College Avenue "College Ave." The expression "have a field day" also has to go. And no one is allowed to use semi-colons anymore unless they can do it correctly.
Professors are no longer allowed to answer questions with "that's beyond the scope of this course." This is obviously an

excuse and I don't think you realize what you're doing to the reputation of mankind by using it.
People who never have fun should start having some — you make the rest of us look boring.
Some dining hall guidelines: Shut your mouth when you chew. Don't get gross-looking food, then say, "this really looks disgusting" and proceed to eat it. Don't put mayonnaise on your french fries. Breaking any of these rules represents the human race as a bunch of pigs.
If your umbrella breaks, GET A NEW ONE! Don't walk around looking like a friendless waif with rain pouring on one of your shoulders. You look pathetic and you're making the rest of us look like we have no common sense.
Don't say, "I'm so bored. There's nothing to do here." If you're so bored, do something — I don't care what. Go see the shrunken heads in Steidle Building, have a picnic at Atherton's grave, browse through

OPEN HOUSE

Students, Faculty & Staff

WHEN:
10 am - 6 pm
Thursday, October 9th, 1986
Friday, October 10th, 1986

WHERE:
The Logical Link
300 Pugh Street
State College, PA 16801

THE QUALITY GOES IN BEFORE THE NAME GOES ON

OFFERS YOU:
IBM P.C. COMPATIBLE MICRO-COMPUTERS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

- 2-241 Series
- AT-Compatible
- 80286 Processor
- 512K RAM
- 6 Mhz Clock
- Single 1.2MB Floppy OR
- 20 MB Winchester

from \$1799

- 2-158 Series
- Desktop PC
- 256K RAM
- Expandable to 640K
- 8 Mhz Clock Switchable
- Dual 5.1" Drives
- OR 20 MB Winchester

from \$999

- 2F-148-42
- 256K RAM
- Expandable to 640K
- 8 Mhz Clock Switchable
- Dual 5.1" Drives
- 2VAM-1220 or 2VAM-1230 Monitor
- 256K Memory Upgrade (for a system total of 512K RAM)

\$999

- 2F-171-42
- 15 lb. Portable
- LCD Backlit Display
- 256K RAM
- Expandable to 640K
- Dual 5.1" Disk Drives
- AC Power Adapter

\$999

DON'T MISS IT!!

For more information please contact
The Logical Link (814) 238-3104
(at the above address)
or
Zenith Data Systems
(215) 668-2044

THESE PRICES NOT COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE

The Daily Collegian arts: the next best thing to being there!