The Daily Collegian

Thursday, Oct. 23, 1986

editorial opinion

A stand for fairness

should know that even the most insignifi- seat? Did Jordan advance that notion becant and innocent actions can haunt them. cause Schreyer is chairman of the five-year what may set off another confrontation with ly not know, as he claims, that Schreyer, students after a long list of controversies. whom he has worked with closely this past

about to begin a three-year term as the interests of Schreyer over the student inter-University's student trustee. She isn't. ests of Greeley-Beahm?

the last student trustee.

serve beyond her graduation. But Greeley- cause of tradition. We may seem insecure she intended to continue her studies here tion has garnered with its deaf ear toward the entire three years.

spring he would serve a three-year term on that their voice can't be easily erased at the

several things don't seem right.

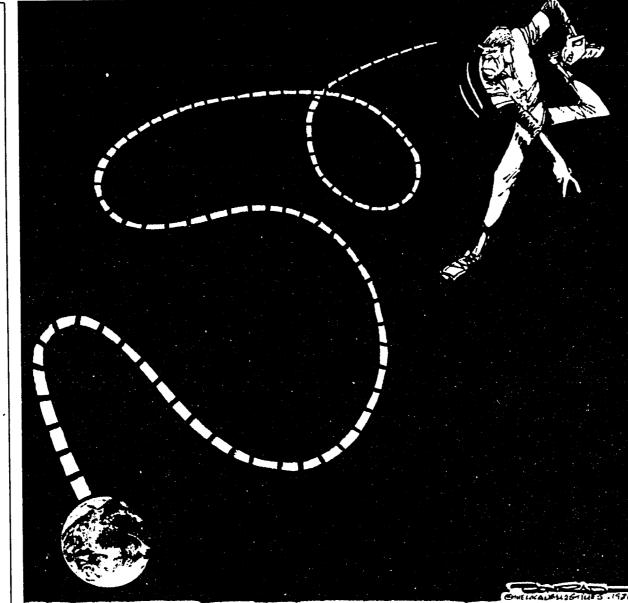
Governors and university presidents board? Why did Schreyer get the three-year Bryce Jordan should have been attuned to Campaign for Penn State? Did Jordan realyear, was getting the three-year seat? Did Mary Greeley-Beahm thought she was Thornburgh and Jordan favor the financial

Instead, she'll be serving a one-year We may never know the answers to these term, while William Schreyer, head of Mer- and other questions. However, there is one rill Lynch, gets the three-year seat held by solution to ease this situation.

In the wake of another incident that It might be easier to swallow if someone underscores this University's insensitivity had told Greeley-Beahm she wasn't getting to student opinion, the trustees should make the three-year seat. Instead, she was led the student position a permanent fixture on along to believe otherwise, facing the em- the board. Such a move would demonstrate barrassing shock of a premature expira- a commitment that this sort of odious action

won't and can't happen again. Thornburgh's office said the appointment It's not enough to speculate that the was made so Greeley-Beahm wouldn't student trustee position will be there be-Beahm says she told Thornburgh officials and paranoid, but the trust this administrastudents leaves everything to be desired.

Meanwhile. Schreyer knew since last Much more, students could rest assured whim of incoming politicians and financial Something doesn't seem right. In fact, magnates. If, as the divestment issue shows, this University doesn't stand for Why wasn't Greeley-Beahm told she morality, at least the trustees could at long would have just a one-year term on the last take a stand for fairness.



ADMINISTRATION PUTTING ITS OWN SPIN ON SUMMIT FAILURE

the Collegian

Thursday, Oct. 23, 1986 ©1986 Collegian Inc.

William G. Landis Jr. **Business Manager**

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Students' letters should include se mester 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 ames 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

reader opinion

Parents' Weekends. We were unaware of this fact;

however, we are not the same Board of Directors which approved the previous movie schedules. Up until April, the organization of which you ment and ARHS.

voted to show pornography this semester. It was done because it is a service students obviously want (as shown by the box office receipts) and

number of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all the

Also, the Office of Student Activ- any other freedom mentioned in the ities only gave us two rooms in which Bill of Rights.

Let me first point out that PSC, a they please get their facts straight graphic films do not feel as if they are didate's press conference where four idence Hall Students, has only been in assumptions and emotional appeal. existence for the past six months. We realize that porn is a sensitive pornography downgrades society, like to address two points. Thank you for pointing out that porn issue, and we are willing to discuss all that might have given her argument • The candidate's statement that

executive vice president, ARHS doms.

Freedoms

Why doesn't Debbie do Dallas on Parents' Weekend? For the same reason you don't take parents to frat parties. And for the same reason your boyfriend or girlfriend abstains from sleeping over on Parents' Weekend. Be honest — parents can be cool, but

naive as to not know what is happen- phy, I would like to say that I myself

Overall performance: "A-plus." tal level and not an ecumenical one.

dishonoring God and Jesus Christ. of my colleagues appeared and pub If Eichorn would have argued that licly endorsed the candidate. I would

Rhonda A. Critchfield

senior-telecommunications

grounds that many things tend to turn it over to people who deal with it John Dalrymple downgrade society (such as alcohol) day in and day out," could be viewed not deal with child abuse every day. The statement that members of the department discussed the adver-

tisement privately and were prediscussions must have been very pri-Paul Kleidermacher vate since not all members were sophomore-pre med involved. Perhaps, only those who are anti-Clinger were involved. Not all administration of iustice

Congratulations to The Daily Colle- faculty agree with the statements in gian sports staff for their remarkable support of the candidate who held the Homecoming issue of The Collegian press conference. Indeed, it may even be unethical for professors to Being an avid Penn state football hide behind their academic robes in find pornographic films distasteful. fan, I find your publications informasupport of political candidates. As However, my personal likes or distive as well as entertaining. Although citizens, of course, they have the likes should not govern any Universi- your hard work and long hours fre- right to support anyone. To use their quently go unrecognized, there are academic affiliation in endorsing

> assistant professor administration of justice

Porn response

In response to Sue Eichorn's letter to show movies. Had we been given It is not a religious issue, and of Oct. 20, "Pornography," it is inacthet third room like we frequently are, assertions as to the ethicality of porcurate to assume that the Penn State Wanda would have continued to Whip nography should be made on a socie-Cinemas deliberately refrained from Wall Street. showing pornographic films on Par- If special interest groups are going Not everyone on campus is a devout The Oct. 16 issue of The Daily Colle-

speak was the Penn State Movie Cooperative, a joint venture between the Undergraduate Student Govern-I must also point out that Universiv guidelines give PSC total control over which movies are shown. We

will continue to use. We don't assume parents are so ing, and the fact that porn was not quite plausible explanation. The fact of the matter is, we decid-

ed to show Disney flicks for a weekend to see how they would fare. Since published in The Daily Collegian. the two movies we wanted were only available the weekend of Oct. 10, we otherwise, pornography is a freedom "Century of Excellence" year one to had to schedule them then.

to continue attacking us, we ask that Christian; people who watch pornogian reported on a congressional canhas not been shown for the past three aspects of the PSC with anyone who is a more universal persuasion, alhe was "trying to take it (child concerned enough to take the time to though I would disagree on the abuse) out of the political arena and

> chairman, PSC Board of Directors are still full-fledged American free- as misleading since my colleagues do I respect Eichorn's religious values, but I do not think she should attempt to impose them on such a variegated and liberal institution as

Good job Without getting into a debate over

the legality and morality of pornogra- Magazine. ty policy; and neither should Sue Until the Supreme Court rules Thanks for making Penn State's

appreciate your dedication to quality. least.

Growing old:

People shouldn't be so concerned with the future that they blur through life And there I am, walking down the Mall, too

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and area residents concernearly in the morning and for some absurd ing issues and topics of interest to reason I don't even remember now. Oh yeah, the Collegian's readership. With and it was pouring down rain, the kind of rain the semester at the half-way where an umbrella doesn't work for squat point, many important issues because it's not just raining down, but sideconfront the University. ways, too, if you know what I mean.

point, feeling pretty stupid the whole time.

but I didn't even notice him, he blended in so

well with the grayness of the day. Old guys

"Yeah," I said. Wonderful. My world is

falling apart and this Geritol junky wants to

are pretty nondescript if you think about it.

strike up a conversation.

"Having some trouble there, pal?"

Authors must present letters-Well, anyway, I'm squishing down the sideto-the-editor (no more than 1 1/2 walk and one of my shoelaces decides I don't pages, double-spaced) or forums have quite enough misery going for me. So the (up to three typed pages, doublelittle bugger mutinies, unties and works his spaced) to the Collegian in 126 way out of the first couple of eyelets. Carnegie Building during office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. isn't a very profound thought to have shared Students' letters should include with myself, but like I said it was early and it you, son.' 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. Names may be withheld

Please

write

on request. 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. Due to the number of letters

receive, the Collegian cannot guarantee that all letters will be All letters become the property of Collegian Inc.

he'd gone senile, sitting out in the rain feeding "Great," I thought to myself. I realize this an occasional brave or stupid squirrel? "You look like something's really bothering

most of you geniuses wouldn't have done any especially crabby and this guy walked into the So I sit down on one of those benches to lace "Yeah," I said, "I'm afraid that one day I'll it back up and that damn little plastic thing on end up being like you." the end of the lace is gone. Great. So I start

This threw me off because I knew none of the edges. I felt a little twinge of guilt inside. my "pals" were around at the time. It turns
He looked like a wise old saint or a crazed old out there was this old guy sitting on thebench,

> "Being like me?" he said. "And just what sincerely and intelligently I was taken off guard. The least he deserved was an honest

Now I notice this guy's sitting on the bench. answer to his question

was a dung heap of a day. Besides, I'm sure Oh boy, I'd had enough. I was feeling

Now that was evil. The poor old fart didn't licking the end of the lace and twisting it to a deserve that. But, he'd started it. He turned to me and looked at me with these really deep eyes, just a little bloodshot around

> out the old codger was on a roll. pervert with those eyes, I couldn't be sure does being like me mean to you?" He spoke so that's your trouble.'

feeding squirrels." old, the way I see it." Amazing. The man does think."

minutes coughing up lung.'' "Seems to me you sure know a lot about being old for someone one-third my age. I

something. Does it?" ened body means a weakened mind. Quite and be happy, like me."

frankly, given the chance to be like you again or remain as I am, I wouldn't change.' "Are you kidding?" I exclaimed. "Why "Well, pretty much because you're a pack

of insensitive jerks with no sense of anything I tried feebly to defend the undergraduate population of Penn State against that remark,

> "Thirty-five thousand of you all racing down a road leading nowhere." He paused you, son." and spat. "You don't appreciate anything, "Wait a minute, what do you mean we don't

appreciate anything?" abagful of nuts. What could I do but conclude prostrate trouble, contending with Polydent through life not even stopping to take any of it Thursday.

and doing senile things like sitting in the rain in and appreciate it. You do, do, do; I stop, feeding squirrels." "Sounds like you're just afraid of getting "Hold on, you can't be implying none of us

"No, just too few of you. When was the last "Shouldn't I be? I don't relish the thought of time you actually created something, somegetting up in the morning and spending 10 thing besides a puddle of gakk on Beaver

Okay, so he had a point

"Well, let me tell you," he began, and I guess it never occurs to you young, beautiful knew this was gonna be good. "There's still people that you could actually be wrong about hope for most of you, so don't worry. You see, right now all of you are here to get a good job, maybe drive a nice car, be successful. But "So I thought. You all think once you're that passes. I hope when you're near the end over the hill, you pick up speed and a weak- of your life you can look back on everything

> "Because right now you all think only in terms of success — of getting what you want; I think in terms of happiness — of wanting

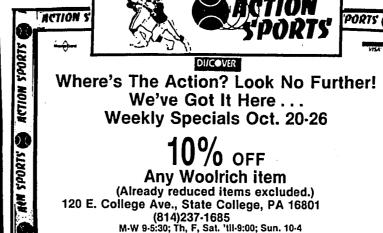
Wow, that floored me. The rain had stopped and numerous squirrels were now crawling up to him and taking nuts from his hand. He gave each a kind word and a pat on the head.

"You look like something's really bothering

"Yeah," I said, "I'm afraid that when that day comes, I won't be like you."

Todd S. Christopher is a sophomore major-"Just what I said. You are all so busy, so ing in English and a columnist for The Daily under an umbrella, feeding squirrels from "Well, I guess it means having pruny skin, concerned with the future that you blur Collegian. His column appears every other



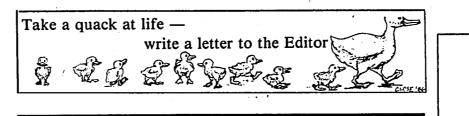


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Knife-dancing:

Valerie thinks nothing like what happened to her could happen in this country. She thinks not enough Americans appreciate what an enlightened country they live in, so she wants me to tell her story. I'm not so

little warped. The public gets very incensed can understand. I know I can. So, whenever Then he takes six or seven knives and part of the establishment and would raise a about something which is dangerous so all she got the chance, she would speed down throws them all into the air and tries to fuss if they were legislated against. against it, simply to protect the people of which is the fastest it goes. the country. This of course seems quite ingly for no reason at all. As you will see, however, Valerie is a little

would have seen there are some very con-

editorializing, let's get to Valerie's story.

activity. It is also viewed by many people as

naive and if she had looked closely, she good number of accidents occur. crete reasons these things are tolerated and sometimes encouraged. But enough of my Driving over 45 miles per hour is absolute-

Valerie, however, has a penchant for speed.

It appears the laws in her country are a It's an addiction I think many Americans (Valerie said they look a lot like squirrels).

Valerie is not the only person in her are middle-aged, because the younger peocountry with this addiction. In fact, there ple are beginning to realize how dangerous larly, most of them young, looking for looking at the body of a knife-dancer, which thrills. Of course, it is dangerous, especially is often lacking arms, legs or fingers, is of knife-dancing. One afternoon, when he when everyone else is driving so slow, so a enough to convince you of that. And their

death rate is staggering. The people in Valerie's country fight this Although knife-dancing is legal, there are He lost his balance and didn't manage to crime with all they're worth — they have many people in the country who do not catch a single knife as they fell. Valerie fund-raisers to get money to launch educa- knife-dance and are quite frightened of tion campaigns on the issue and a great deal being killed by a stray knife. They would

when she found him. She would have left the country, except However, they are virtually the only peo- could be arrested for a habit and addiction Thrusday.

Everytime she tells anyone this story. This was something which is seen as ion to describe someone as paranoid: "He Valerie can't help saying how happy she is that knife-dancing is illegal in the United isn't looked upon as sinful, it isn't illegal and why this practice was legal, especially since She can not imagine the enlightened Unit-

ed States making such a poor decision to permit something as dangerous as knifedancing while hunting down with zeal and describe knife-dancing to you briefly. First, I thought it must have a lot to do with the fervor everyone who commits another the dancer balances himself with each foot fact that the people who speed are mostly crime which is certainly does not directly Why, it was only this week that I read Carl

Sagan, quoted in USA Today, mention this statistic: 400 deaths per year in the United States are directly related to drug use, while 4,000 deaths per year are directly related to cigarette smoking. So when is Nancy Reagan going to jump on the anti-smoking bandwagon? And when will people stop adopting causes franticly.

Not that taking drugs is great or should be

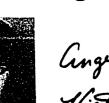
can blind us to another? After that, there was no reason for her to Englishand a column for The Daily Colleremain in a country where, any day, she gian. Her column appears every other

Why do people see one danger so clearly, while habit and emotion blind them to others? I have this friend I'd like to tell you about. She's from another country, a strange little place you've probably never heard of. She's wanted by the law in her country which is why I won't give her real name or the name of the country. I'll just call her Valerie.

sure I agree with her, but I'm going to tell reasonable. And yet other practices that are far more dangerous are encouraged, seem-

sorts of laws and police measures are taken the highway, taking her car up to 95 mph, catch them as they fall. are many people who break this law regu-

ceived as a life-threatening, very dangerous of public and government attention is folike to see knife-dancing confined by law cused on stopping this dangerous activity. and kept out of public places.



the people who practice it are usually part it seemed far more dangerous than speed-This practice is knife-dancing. Let me on a small animal native to that country young and rebellious, and the people who kill more people per year.

everyone knows it's dangerous, it certainly

Most of the knife-dancers in that country that one of the biggest industries in their it is even for a skilled dancer. Indeed, just

she could not bear to leave her favorite ple who are working for this cause and they which she could not break, so she immibrother, Igor, who had an addiction of a are often characterized as annoying and grated to the United States. overly cautious. There is even an expresscomparatively harmless — well, although looks for knives falling from the sky." Valerie told me she could not understand States.

> ing. I thought at first that I understood why, but I only had half the reason. knife-dance are mostly middle-aged and

this. Valerie's brother Igor died as a result was relaxing with a little dance, something startled the animal underneath his left foot. legalized, but why is it we can see one danger so clearly, while habit and emotion

says she did not even recognize her brother

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