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'The young people here must learn to do what is apparently a lost American art: We've got to start dreaming of a better world for our grandchildren again.'

— Kurt Vonnegut

Kurt Vonnegut, the author of *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Breakfast of Champions* and *Slapstick* and now on a lecture tour of college campuses, brings his wry, somewhat paradoxical vision of life, death and absurdity to the University in an address at Eisenhower Auditorium last night. In the 90-minute talk,

Vonnegut touched on topics ranging from Reagan and Rambo, and advised the audience not to fall into the trap of expecting life to follow fiction's pattern of peaks and troughs. "Only stories should have that rise and fall," he said. "Not lives." Please see related story, Page 14.

Vonnegut brings humor to PSU

By DAMON CHAPPIE
Collegian Staff Writer

Kurt Vonnegut unleashed Kurt Vonnegut's wry criticism on a host of current issues while reminding last night's audience in Eisenhower Auditorium that "something quite meaningful is going on on this planet."

The 64-year-old author of *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Galapagos* knocked the conservative New Right, television, the Star Wars missile defense system, textbook censorship, Rambo and Ronald Reagan. He demonstrated transcendental meditation for a few seconds and diagrammed literary plot lines.

And in the midst of that, he jumped with delight to the middle of the stage, announcing that the Red Sox were leading the Mets 2-0 at the top of the second inning. "I lived in New England for 20 years; what more can I say," he said to cheers and boos from the 1,200 in the audience.

The 90-minute lecture touched on many of the themes Vonnegut has identified himself within his novels and teachings.

He spoke of the "completely meaningless, vengeful" firebombing of Dresden in World War II which caused him to write *Slaughterhouse-Five*. "There is only one person on the whole planet who benefited from destruction of Dres-

den. You're looking at him. I got \$3 for every person killed," he said to a hushed crowd. "Nobody has ever come forward to say that the bombing of Dresden improved anyone else's life."

But current issues also were on the writer's mind. "We have an actor for a president. Here is the first divorced president in the history of the United States, the protector of the family. You ask how. It's because he's an actor playing the protector of the family."

On the Reykjavik summit: Reagan "comes back. It's a fiasco. Everyone knows it's a fiasco and he declares it a success. Because he's an actor playing a person who's had a success," Vonnegut said.

He said that Reagan, who "has never had a learned reference in any speech he has ever given is saying 'I have faith' " in Star Wars. "But the technical people are saying this thing is preposterous. It will not work."

Vonnegut said that book censorship is "happening in a few isolated communities where they haven't had much experience with literature." Vonnegut's books have been banned and burned in some communities.

"I also know that these same communities where they are burning books, when I was a boy

they were burning human beings," he said. "It seems to me we're getting somewhere."

"Only now are we waking and saying, 'Hey, let's make the United States what it has always claimed to be, what it is supposed to be.' "

Vonnegut credited this generation with better attitudes toward race than his generation displayed.

He said that when he was young, he dreamed of what life would be for his grandchildren and tried to make the world a better place.

"We are more just now, but we have a long way to go. The young people here must learn to do what is apparently a lost American art: We've got to start dreaming of a better world for our grandchildren again. Practically nobody seems to be looking out for grandchildren anymore," he said.

And the writer gave advice that he guaranteed will improve life. "What people can't stand about their lives — there is no rise and fall. Only stories should have that rise and fall, not lives."

"But we have processed so many stories: man in hole, man gets out of hole; boy meets girl. We think that the same thing happens in life. And so there are all these people who are discontented because they think their lives are stories. But life's not supposed to be a story. Only stories are stories."

Lawyer suggests deal for Hasenfus

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press Writer

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Griffin Bell, the former U.S. attorney general who is representing Eugene Hasenfus, yesterday gave the Sandinista government a list of 19 Nicaraguans held in U.S. prisons and said he would be willing to initiate an exchange.

But the former attorney general said he did not know anything about the 19 prisoners and had no reason to think the Sandinistas wanted any of them freed, so there was "hardly a chance" of an exchange.

He gave no indication he had discussed a prisoner exchange with Reagan administration officials.

Bell said he had asked Norman Carlson, the director of the Bureau of Prisons and a former law partner, for a list of Nicaraguans in U.S. federal prisons.

Pat Sledge, an aide to Carlson, said in Washington that the list was furnished at Bell's request but that "he (Carlson) did not suggest a swap."

Bell, attorney general during the

Carter administration, is helping prepare the defense for Hasenfus, who is charged with terrorism, violating public security and criminal association.

Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., was in a C-123 cargo plane that was shot down Oct. 5 in southern Nicaragua. The plane was ferrying military supplies to the U.S.-backed Contra rebels, who are fighting the leftist Sandinista government.

Hasenfus has said he believed he had been working on a covert CIA operation and has complained in interviews with U.S. journalists that he felt abandoned by his government.

Bell said at a news conference that he gave the prisoner list to Saul Arana, a Foreign Ministry official in charge of U.S. affairs. Bell said that if Nicaragua expressed interest in an exchange, he would be "the messenger to the United States to see if our government would agree to an exchange. . . I would hope they would."

He also said he was told his request to see Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega would be relayed "to the highest level."

McKee Hall summer closing reconsidered

By VALERIE BAILEY
Collegian Staff Writer

Plans to close McKee Hall during the 1987 Intercession and Summer Session will be reconsidered this week, said Donald Arndt, director of Housing Services. The possible closing of the graduate residence hall, across the street from Rec Hall, will be discussed at tonight's Graduate Student Association's general assembly meeting in 101 Kern at 7:15.

A notice sent to McKee Hall residents by the University's Office of Housing and Food Services said residence hall would be closed during the upcoming Summer Session.

The notice also said graduate housing would be available in Nittany Apartments and Irvin Hall.

The University decided to close McKee this summer for maintenance work, like painting corridors and window sills, said Joseph Phiri (graduate-mining engineering), head of the programming and services division of GSA.

McKee residents were not consulted prior to the decision, said Lynn DuBois, manager of graduate housing. However, other alternatives to closing the residence hall were discussed last night with McKee resi-

dents and housing officials Arndt and DuBois.

Arndt said "it is highly optimistic something can be worked out for continuing students."

Some students are in the process of writing their theses, which completes a master's or doctoral degree. Writing a thesis and packing belongings to move downtown, only to move back a month later, is a lot of work, he said.

Phiri said housing personnel sent out a survey Friday to the McKee residents, asking them whether they plan to continue living in the residence hall during the summer.

DuBois said it is possible McKee will stay open for students who plan to live in McKee during both Spring Semester and during the summer.

At tonight's GSA meeting, Phiri said, the Housing committee will ask GSA to support McKee residents, as they ask the University for alternative housing plans for McKee residents that will "take into consideration the students' inconveniences and needs," Phiri said.

The Graduate Student and Faculty Affairs Committee's decision to recommend reinstating fall commencement in 1988 will also be discussed at tonight's GSA meeting, said Luke Taicet (graduate-higher education), Graduate Council representative.

Election-year mudslinging reaches new lows

By MEGAN O'MATZ
Collegian Staff Writer

A picture of a bust of U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter appears on the television screen. The senator looks as dignified as a Greek god, but the aim of the ad is not to honor him.

news analysis

It's to crucify him.

The legislator, a voice says, voted for the Gramm-Rudman law to cut the federal budget. He said yea to the "wasteful" MX missile, and nay to economic sanctions against South Africa.

Just then the bust deteriorates into a thousand pieces.

"Senator Arlen Specter," the voice says. "He's just not what he is cracked up to be."

The sponsor of this unsavory ad is U.S. Rep. Bob Edgar, Specter's opponent in this year's senate race. But Edgar is not the only contender to engage in dirty politics.

His commercial is typical of the negative advertising created by congressional and gubernatorial candidates throughout the 1986 election campaigns.

"Mudslinging is a time-honored tradition in American politics," says

Charles Redenius, expert in American national politics.

And this year is no different.

No national issues have emerged for politicians to focus on, which is not unusual during a non-presidential election year, says James Curtis, expert in public policy analysis. So most candidates have resorted to mudslinging.

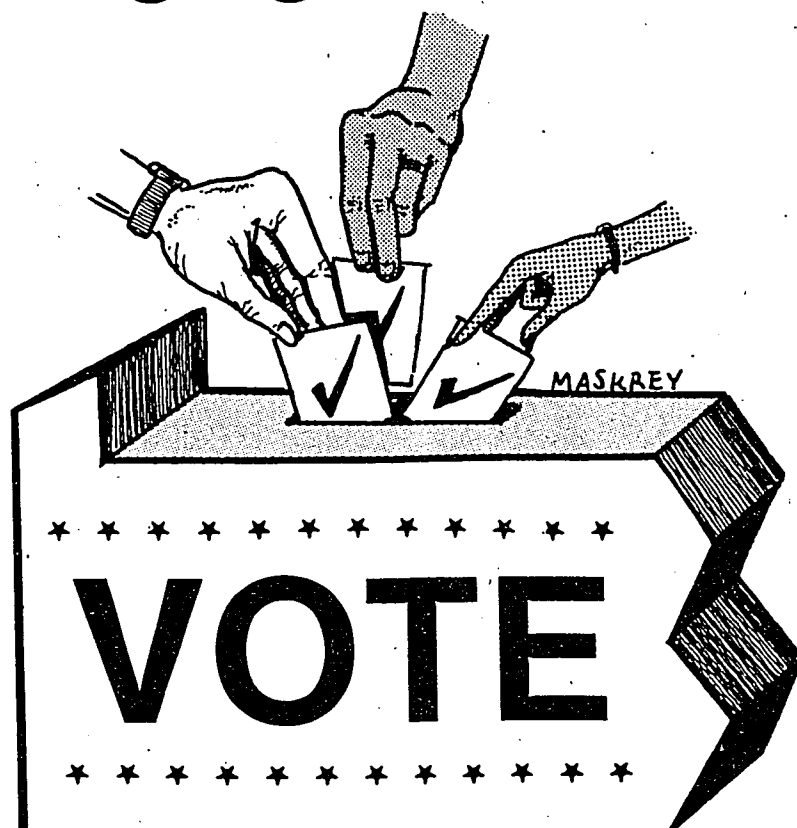
"If you're a politician there are certain issues you don't want to run on," said Curtis, University assistant professor of political science. "You don't want to talk about the budget deficit because the only solution is to raise taxes or cut programs, which is not popular. You don't want to talk about abortion because you're bound to alienate people."

Lt. Gov. William Scranton and Democratic candidate Bob Casey, in skirting the issues, have sponsored a series of absenteeism commercials in their race for Pennsylvania's governor.

Scranton, a Republican, accused Casey of failing to show his face at the Delaware Port Authority Commission when the Democratic nominee was state auditor general.

Casey fired back by charging that the Republican lieutenant governor skipped out on the Pardons Board meetings.

Specter even got on the truant bandwagon, claiming that Edgar



missed 40 percent of the House roll calls this year.

The senator's press secretary, Phil Goldberg, said: "Representative Edgar has been running a campaign full

of untruths and vilifications. He's been very insulting in his attacks, especially with the Greek bust."

Specter, however, has "taken the high road" and is running on his

record, Goldberg said. Edgar has been running a "dishonest and distorted" campaign, he said, which has not worked well for the representative.

"Polling data has us 20 points ahead," Goldberg said.

But Ted Piccone, Edgar spokesman, said negative ads work.

"We cut Arlen Specter's lead in half in the first two weeks," he said.

Conventional wisdom among political consultants is that the electorate is interested in candidates' personal qualities, said James Eisenstein, American politics expert.

"There seems to be a belief that these ads have some effect," the University political science professor said. "So the candidates run them because their political consultants have convinced them they work, or that failure to respond when you're the subject of an attack will bring harm to your campaign."

Negative campaigning has been a part of American politics almost from the start, said Redenius, professor of political science at the Behrend campus.

Early campaign cartoons portray President Abraham Lincoln as a gorilla.

"Mudslinging today is not nearly as trenchant nor as personal nor as vindictive as earlier in our republic," he said.

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tuesday

inside



▲ The New York Mets pile atop one another as they celebrate their World Series triumph over the Boston Red Sox. . . . Page 10

weather

This afternoon, a beautiful fall day with lots of sunshine and a high of 63. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 43. And tomorrow, sunshine early, with clouds on the increase. High 65.

..... Heidi Sonen