

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1986

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editorial opinion

Who's on trial?

All rise! The rape victim nervously takes the stand. The defendant stares at the woman and smirks as if to say, "just try to prove you didn't entice me; just try to prove you weren't sleeping with another man around the time you cried rape; and while you're at it, why don't you tell us a little bit about your sexual history and try to defend your reputation."

Though it sounds like a scene from a horror movie titled *Reversed Justice*, this line of thought may turn into a similar line of questioning for Pennsylvania rape victims.

Instead of cracking down on rapists, a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling has weakened a law protecting rape victims.

The court ruled last week that the Rape Shield Law does not prohibit a defendant from attempting to prove the victim had been sexually involved with another man near the time of the rape. Under the new ruling, the defendant can also present the victim's sexual history or reputation as evidence against the woman.

In the 4-3 decision, the court ruled that a Lancaster County judge must reconsider the testimony of a 15-year-old boy who contends he had sexual relations with a 14-year-old girl near the time when she was allegedly raped by her father.

While not condoning the sexual activity of a 14-year-old child, the actions for which the father was convicted in 1983, are not justifiable under any circumstances.

If such a ludicrous idea is allowed to stand in judicial circuits, the legal mindset sends a message to society: any sexually active

woman is fair game for rape. The ruling will allow the alleged criminal to say he is just another sexual partner.

The ruling illustrates "reversed justice," where the victim is put on trial instead of the criminal.

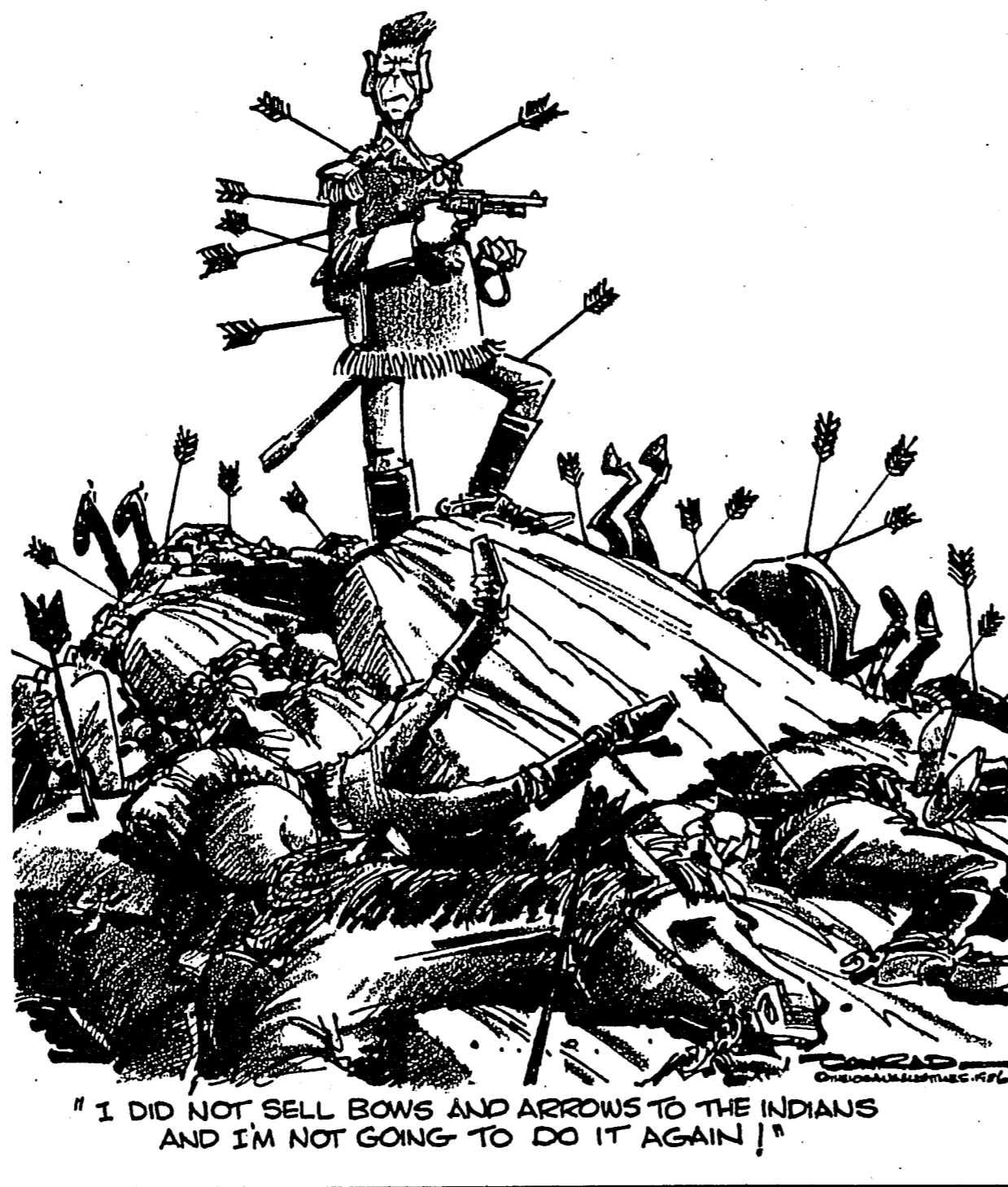
Surely, the Rape Shield Law was not intended to protect rapists and harass the victims of such a heinous crime. That's right — crime. Rape is a violent crime against women and society. Rape is not a sexual act. The court has no right to treat rape as it would treat the case of a jealous lover; demanding to know the whos, whats and whens of the woman's sex life. Not only is this information irrelevant, but it is an invasion of the woman's Fourth Amendment privacy rights.

As Justice Nicholas P. Papadakos said, "Allowing this kind of testimony would reintroduce the very evils which the Rape Shield Law was designed to prevent."

Has common sense become something of the past? Or is this just another example of a loophole law that muddles the judicial system? The court should reconsider the decision that forces victims to prove their innocence. Too many criminals are already slipping through cracks in the system. Judges should be cementing the cracks; not widening them.

The Supreme Court did not act justly in its recent ruling and when a judge is unjust, he's no longer a judge but a transgressor.

In essence, the court has a checkbook power and unfortunately when used incorrectly as it was this past week, the account comes up unbalanced and victims not criminals are left to pay.



reader opinion

Propaganda

Picture Beaver Stadium. Fill the East stands with 36,000 students. Put the administration in the heated pressbox on the West side. Throw in a few heavily padded players and a couple of cheerleaders.

A familiar cry comes from the East: "We are..." The response from the West? "Gee, who are these people?"

I just saw a preview showing of the Campaign for Penn State slide show and was sadly disappointed. This production was created to entice the viewers, particularly alumni, to contribute money to the University's \$200 million in wanted to improve the Matchler or Assistant Opinion Editor Jim Higgins in the Collegian office or by calling 865-1828.

Early applications are now available. 126 Carnegie Building and must be returned by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10. Applications will also be accepted during the beginning of the Spring Semester.

Please pick up an application for further details. Questions should be directed at Opinion Editor Terry Matchler or Assistant Opinion Editor Jim Higgins in the Collegian office or by calling 865-1828.

various alumni and all we really saw of their Penn State experience was that they graduated. I knew that.

In fact, one alumnus interviewed said after the football what was he to do. Is Penn State really just a football school.

What's disheartened me the most was that not one current student was interviewed. We are the ones the funds will affect, yet we were forgotten.

We are Penn State, yet we are forgotten. Oh, yes, there were photographs of students. But all of these students were gazing in awe at their skillful professors.

We are more than this and more important than we were represented here.

One final aspect of this production that needs to be addressed is the

almost total omission of non-technical fields — even the College of Business Administration.

I thought Penn State had one of the top-rated business programs in the country. Why was it excluded?

The University tells me my Liberal Arts degree is well worth the time I'm spending to earn it. Why was it excluded?

I understand big industry brings in big bucks. But isn't the purpose of this show to accurately display Penn State? It doesn't.

Scratch that. The show does portray the University as it is. The administration has always shown a blatant disregard for students. This propaganda piece seconds that notion.

Karl A. Kline
senior-English

So, how would you like to be famous? You could very well gain your name and photograph in this newspaper on a regular basis if you apply for a Spring Semester columnist position for *The Daily Collegian*.

Columnist will be expected to write interesting, well-written and researched columns for the editorial page concerning issues and topics that are pertinent to the University community.

Columnists wanted

the Collegian

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1986
1986 Collegian Inc.

Antia C. Huslin
Editor
William G. Landis Jr.
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Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

Quality television:

The Cosby kids get Family Tied at Cheers and run into Night Court by the Hill Street Blues

I don't know about you, but Thursday is my day of divine Sabbath. I refuse to work or to emerge from the dark on this day, and it is not only because of the enumerable pitchers I drink at a local bar the night before.

Lacking a spiritual focus in my life until recently, I have now found that which provides my soul with inner awareness, peace and tranquility.

To reach this Nirvana in your own home, kids, follow these easy to read instructions. Assemble your Tony the Tiger Home Neurosurgery Kit by folding on the dotted line and... sorry wrong instructions.

First, buy multi-colored candles from your nearest discount pharmacy and place them on the altar, namely any late-model television. If you do not have a television then go directly to the sports page.

Next, melt a package of Doritos or any similar semi-digestible snack food in your microwave as a symbolic gesture. If you do not have a microwave, go directly to Los



Angelenos and try out to be a contestant on "The Wheel of Fortune."

Finally, assume the Lotus position in front of the television and chant the three magic syllables that will bring joy and happiness to your life N . . . B . . . C . . . N . . . B . . . C . . . N

At this point, the television will switch on by itself and the miracle of the celebration commences. It is THE NIGHT OF QUALITY TELEVISION. (And there was much rejoicing.)

In tonight's episode, the gospel of Bill,

Alex, Sam, Harry and Frank come together as *The Cosby Kids* get *Family Tied* at *Cheers* and run into *Night Court* by the *Hill Street Blues*.

The show opens as Dr. Huxtable and his family are celebrating Mrs. Huxtable's birthday at "Cheers." Norm challenges Clair to a Chug-a-Lug contest and wins.

Dr. Huxtable's beeper sounds. Joyce Davenport is ready to have her baby.

Duty calls. Dr. Huxtable does not realize how drunk he is and because of his incompetence, the baby is born with a stutter which renders it unable to appear on prime-time television. It is adopted by David Letterman who regularly pokes fun at it.

Joyce is enraged, and hauls the doctor into "Night Court" on malpractice charges. Harry throws the case out of court so he can go see lawyer Dan make a fool out of himself by selling illegal exploding cigars to a Mullah in exchange for off-color photos of Nancy Reagan and Richard Nixon's former dog Checkers.

Meanwhile, Theo and Rudy Huxtable are getting drunk at "Cheers" on Choco-Mint Schnapps. Alex, aspiring to assistant district snitch whenever he finally leaves home at 39, calls in Sgt. Belker from Hill Street Station to come in and throw the ruffians in a drunk tank.

So ends another evening of the best television has to offer. But a few words must be said about the wonderful people who make this all possible.

Actually, commercials these days are oftentimes funnier than the shows they are mercifully interrupt. There is no one in particular, about a seemingly sane woman who holds a lengthy conversation with a large animated depiction of talking toilet paper. This cheerful character, who apparently does not know his ultimate purpose, actually seems superior in knowledge to this woman, who looks up at the toilet paper as if it is Carl Sagan or Albert Einstein expounding an astounding theory.

So what's the point you ask? The people

Materials should be directed to Opinion Editor Terry Matchler or Assistant Opinion Editor Jim Higgins. All authors must bring the materials to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie Building, in person and present proper identification. (If there is more than one author, all must be present.)

Students' letters should include the semester and major of each writer. Letters from alumni should include the author's major and year of graduation. Names may be withheld on request.

The *Daily Collegian's* Board of Opinion would like to know what the faculty, students, staff and area residents think about the entire Iranian arms sales situation. Deadline for letters-to-the-editor (no more than 1 1/2 pages, double-spaced) and forums (up to three typed pages, double-spaced) is 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8.

Letters and forums from University Park and State College: Please deliver any submissions in person at the office of the *Daily Collegian*.

Journalists show alcohol effects

By SHELLY NAPOLI
Collegian Staff Writer

Five Centre County media figures participated in a controlled drinking demonstration last Tuesday hosted by a group that makes drinking and safe highways its main priorities — the Centre County Drunk and Impaired Driving Task Force, a group made up of members of the law enforcement community and the Centre County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Journalists from the *Centre Daily Times*, *The Centre Democrat* and State College radio station WRSC began drinking at 3:30 p.m. in a suite furnished by the Sheraton Penn State, 240 S. Pugh St. The blood alcohol content of all five participants was tested at random intervals until 7 p.m. A blood alcohol content of 0.1 is considered the legal intoxication level in Pennsylvania.

The demonstration was intended to educate the media so that they can learn and report back to the public. In addition, participants were asked to complete several sobriety and simulated driving exercises to demonstrate the impairing effects of alcohol.

Matt Slovak of the CDT, with a blood alcohol content of .163, failed the walk-and-turn test with two mistakes, the maximum allowed in the test. Slovak lost his balance as he started and did his turn incorrectly. His CDT colleague, Jackie Ward, managed to recite the alphabet cor-

rectly for the English alphabet test with a blood alcohol content of .194. University Police Officer Ron Horner said the test is often inaccurate with a blood-alcohol content under 0.20.

WBSC personality Jerry Fisher, with a blood alcohol content of .103, successfully stood for 30 seconds balanced on one leg with his hands on his side.

Other media participants were Chip Minemyer and Kevin Mattison of the *Centre Democrat*.

In addition, all participants took a reaction test in which they sat in front of a small box containing a gas pedal and a brake. They were required to move their feet from the pedal to the brakes when a light came on.

The participants' reaction times varied from one-half to 1 1/2 seconds. The normal reaction time of a sober person is between one-third and one-half seconds, University Police Officer Ron Horner said.

Horner added that a drunk driver will have to react to only one emergency, and if they cannot react fast enough they could be in an accident. The tests — which included the English alphabet test, the one-leg stand, and the walk-and-turn — were like tests administered to persons pulled over for drunk driving.

Police officers administering the tests were Horner and Dwight Smith of University Police Services, Gary Shaw of the Bellefonte Police Department, and Ralph Ralston of the State College Bureau of Police Services.



A quick read

Jennifer Morgan (senior-general arts and sciences) relaxes while catching up on her reading outside Schwab Auditorium yesterday.

Seminar to discuss lithotripsy

Techniques to dissolve kidney stones, including one technique used at the University's Hershey Medical Center, will be the topic of a seminar sponsored by the bioengineering department at 11 this morning in 112 Kern.

During the discussion, Thomas Rohrer, professor of surgery and chief of urology at the medical center, will speak on two procedures used to treat patients with kidney stones, a University professor said.

Roger Gaumond, associate professor of bioengineering, said Rohrer will discuss the "merits and disadvantages of ultrasonic and extracorporeal shock-wave lithotripsy." Ultrasonic lithotripsy involves inserting a probe through the urethra and then generating a brief pulse at a specific frequency near the kidney stone, Gaumond said. The pulse then strikes the stones, breaking them into smaller particles that can pass through the urinary tract.

The procedure differs from extracorporeal shock-wave lithotripsy, which is being used at the medical center, because the extracorporeal method does not use a probe inserted into the patient's body. Instead, a computerized X-ray machine emits a fast pulsing shock wave and a reflector is used to direct the beam toward the kidney stones. When the waves strike the stones, they crush them into sand-like particles.

—By Ruth Folmer

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