

## editorial opinion

### Faulty engineering

More or less, it's similar to Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Many engineering students are uncertain about their academic futures and, unfortunately, it's because of a lack of communication.

This semester many sophomore engineering students were ousted from their preferred majors because they did not meet the required grade point average cut-off.

Students contend that a letter sent to them stated that Spring Semester grades would be considered in the evaluation process when in fact only their grades up until the end of their third semester were considered. The students are right, the process is unfair.

The officials in the College of Engineering said the students were warned of the evaluation procedures in the letter, adding that students might have misunderstood the policy.

One part of the letter stated "if at the

end of the Spring Semester you have met the entrance criteria and your cumulative GPA is above the required minimum, you will be granted entrance to a major." This is what caught most students' attention and they thought they had until Spring Semester to meet their major requirements.

It seems that the College of Engineering did not make it clear that evaluations would admit students on the basis of grades from the first three semesters and use spring grades only if students were on the borderline or if additional spaces were made available.

Let's face it, good communication skills are not just a requirement for the School of Communications. The College of Engineering is prosecuted for not having made the letter to fallowed engineers clearer; its intentions should have been explicit.

It's all well and good for the officials

in the College of Engineering to sit back and call this a "communication problem" but what about the students who misunderstood the letter and were actually counting on spring grades to improve their GPAs?

In all fairness to those students who were simply a victim of circumstance, the University administration should consider granting a grandfather clause which would guarantee that students who qualify could enter their desired major based on their grades until the end of Spring Semester.

It is not fair to pull students' career dreams out from under them because of a "communication problem" that wasn't even their fault.

The administration should seriously take into consideration what effect this is going to have on those students' futures. Officials must remember they are not dealing with numbers; they are dealing with people.

### The second coming of Throgg and company

Followers of Secular Humanism, Beware! Behold! The Second Coming of the Word of Throgg the Omniscient, Omnibenevolent and Omnidirectional Throgg demands your attention! Throgg the Bountiful, The God who Exists and Continues to Create Squirrels!

Who was it that said most men lead lives of quiet desperation? I'm considering jumping up and down on my notebook again. But it'll pass. And I'll continue writing.

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only could no mortal have written it, none can understand it! It must be the work of Throgg!

More proof does Throgg offer you of his existence. He seeks not to frighten you or coerce you. He wishes only that you love and cherish what you are. For Throgg exists! Harken to the Three Proofs of His Existence: 1. Blue is Throgg's Favorite Color. Is not the sky blue? 2. Are there not greater grades of God, and therefore must not some Ultimate Good exist - Must not Throgg exist? 3. Surely there must have been a Creator, for there are Causes and Effects. Must not there have been some Ultimate Cause? Must not Throgg be that Ultimate Cause? (Do not be confused by the mindless who insist upon debating the Chicken or the Egg" for it is a meaningless quibble).

Furthermore, Throgg offers another indisputable proof - for free! He prophesies that upon the Third Tuesday after the Third Leap Year after the third assassination attempt upon Ramgialid in the Third Century from now, the Dow Jones will fall 22 points! It is indisputable!

Indeed, it is the most profound statement since Throgg split himself into parts that he might have friends.

It seems in many ways a bountiful thing. Alas, Throgg bids me now to cease. Soon perhaps, the High Priests will once again speak aside the Willard Temple Steps as do other priests who wander endlessly as headless chickens about the house of Frank Perdue. But for now, I bid you farewell with a story Throgg once told unto me.

Throgg stood before me, his beak severed. "If I face you," he said, stretching his wings, "then this wing is left and this wing is right." He gestured. "But when I turn around," his tailfeathers whirled, "this wing is left and this one is right."

I stared uncomprehending. "So what is right depends on your point of view!"

I must now go. The High Priest of Sleep is sleeping.

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"Oh those poor Hare Krishna kids, they don't have a choice of their own," or "those poor Amish kids, they are humiliated if they want to leave their community," or "the fundamentalists' kids whose parents teach them a standard of Godliness." Many of these children grow up loving the culture they are in and do not want to leave it. But they do have a choice when they are on their own.

There is no need to feel sorry for these kids. Who has the right to say which religion or philosophy is the best to bring up your children, whether it be Krishna, Amish, Fundamentalist, or whatever? The parents do. Do not get me wrong, I do not support the Krishna of any other "off the wall" groups, but I still respect parental rights.

In contrast, the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries such as Sweden, the state-owned "right to indoctrinate them in the ways of Humanism. The goal of the Humanist is to gain control of our children. Thank God we still own them, but with ethnocentric attitudes as those I have mentioned above makes me wonder how long this will be true.

Al Martin, freshman-DUS



## reader opinion

### Balanced

At the risk of starting a journalistic incident, I would like to put in my two cents regarding Coleman Robinson's letter and Brenda Lee's response.

The Collegian has been ranked one of the top newspapers in the country among colleges and universities. It has achieved this position through journalistic reporting.

Granted, the Collegian has made its share of mistakes in the past - grossly misquoting interviewees and, yes, overrating photos of sometimes irrelevant campus events. But you must keep in mind the underlying purpose of the news media and that is to inform. The fact that one student out of 35,000 isn't interested in politics and world/campus events doesn't mean that these topics should be eliminated.

Unfortunately, I think that many people share Brenda Lee's opinion - that the Collegian should focus on fun at Penn State and "having a good time." This attitude should have been abandoned in high school. If all students were so self-centered and immature, this certainly would prove to be the crutch in the growth of our university.

The staff and editors of the Collegian know when they have done a good job. By the same token, they are wise enough to learn by their mistakes. I trust that the staff will continue to print those views which represent ALL student opinions at Penn State.

### Least sexist

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the statements made by

Phyllis Mansfield (Collegian, vol 87, no. 159) concerning the Baby M case. It is true that historically, women have been portrayed as emotional, irrational, and manipulative. Researchers such as Lombroso, W.I. Thomas, and Freud have based entire theories of female criminality on this stereotype of women. Our society revolves around these stereotypes and thus, women have been limited in the opportunities available to them. Sexism is prevalent in the media, literature and the laws.

However, one must look not only at the personality traits attributed to women, but also, examine the role women have played in society. Women's roles are based on the idea that "anatomy is destiny" as reflected in the writings of Freud and many contemporary writers. Traditionally, women have been tied to their "natural role" which is reproduction. It is this idea that biology destines women to be inferior, that lays the foundation for other sexist attacks.

The decision in the Baby M case illustrates that the court has laid aside the traditional stereotype of women, in making a determination in the best interest of the child.

Although this case was not free of sexist and classist overtones, the decision made was the least sexist one that could be made at this time, and in this society. Sexism pervades our institutions and is very deep-rooted. Let's hope that the courts will continue to engage in decisions which will promote social change, and help move toward a society that is free from sexism, classism, and racism.

Jessica R. Davidovich, senior-administration of Justice

### Vacuous mindset

This is in response to Brenda Lee's insightful letter to the editor Friday, April 10. I quote her last line: "... Stop being so damn stuffy and start

having a good time." Now isn't that special.

You're right, Ms. Lee, too many people on this beloved campus have lost their sense of humor. But I think more importantly, too many people at this institution have fallen into the vacuous mindset of the party-clone mold. Ms. Robinson was in every way correct in her attack on the Collegian's tacky handling of some of the recent front pages.

True, the Collegian is a college paper, but its staff is responsible for producing a professional publication, every day. Slapping a "winners" logo across a front-page photograph of the Stern couple was not professional.

Granted, the Bathsheba case study is a Penn State tradition, but I think we get our share of "tradition" every weekend avoiding the spit of drinks hanging off of their apartment balconies, as well as dealing with the numerous accounts of vandalism, fire-alarm tripping, and other assorted mindless acts of "partying it up." Duh!

I don't need your advice, Ms. Lee, I live it, but I would advise you and anyone else who shares your limited set of priorities to take off your Wayfarers and stop looking at things so narrowly.

### Changing rules

If it weren't for the fourth quarter, the Penn State football team would

have never won the national championship. Imagine if the officials for the Fiesta Bowl decided midway through the fourth quarter that they would stop the game, and the score from the end of the third quarter would stand. Would this be fair, changing the rules of the game?

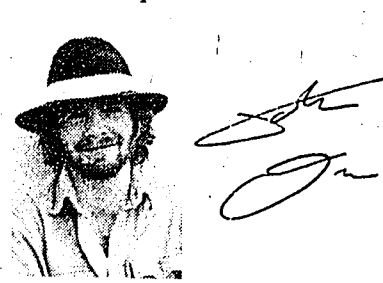
I don't believe that anyone reading this would think it would be. This changing of the rules is exactly what has happened to many of us now. The University is the referee this time and they changed the rules in the "fourth quarter" concerning acceptance into the engineering major.

Now, instead of us being accepted after our fourth semester, they (the University) decided we should be accepted after our third semester. With absolutely no warning to the engineering students, this decision was made sometime during the middle of this semester.

Due to problems my first semester, I only managed to earn a 1.89. Since then my GPA has been over 3.0. This semester, due to my desire to become an electrical engineer, it will probably be again. But to no avail; all my hard work and commitment to become an E.E. has gone down the drain. Since the rules have changed I will not be able to recover from my first semester's mistakes. Only I had one more semester to improve my GPA I would have made it.

As a result of the University's actions, all engineers in my position have no chance of acceptance in the scramble for the remaining positions in our desired majors. We are now forced to change our hopes and dreams.

This changing of the rules when it is already "too late", is not fair. There should be some sort of "grandfather clause" which would exempt this year's students from this unfairness. We (the engineering students) were told no less than five times, in letters



Greetings! I am the High Priest of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol. I regret that the High Priest of Sex could not be here today, but he preaches elsewhere.

The High Priest of Sleep is sleeping.

I have been commanded by Throgg himself, the mighty chicken and the chicken on the Egg" for it is a meaningless quibble).

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## opinions

### On the horizon

Raise your hands, at least mentally, if you doubt your own future

Enough. Recently I have been seen jumping (rather violently) up and down on a half-full (empty) page of chaotic scribbles (aka: thoughts).

Having realized my mistakes (although I'll probably find myself still making them) I've elected myself as a writer, to point them out to everyone else. Enough of the sermon, enough of the philosophy of why writers write.

I'm considering jumping up and down on my notebook again. But it'll pass. And I'll continue writing.

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I've read while I'm walking. Most men lead lives of quiet desperation. Like right now I'm desperate because this isn't going right.

Has everybody noticed how many domesticated squirrels there are on campus? You can't help but notice because they're always begging for food like my terrier at home.

Personally, I think they've come up with a plan to take over the world, starting with this educational institute, because they can see that we've made such a horrible mess of things. Nuclear war will destroy them too. I wonder what a squirrel civilization would be like. Would they argue over religion like we seem to do all the time? Does it really matter that we worship differently? We all die in the end anyway; sometimes brutally and painfully, sometimes quietly in our beds, and our last breaths are either blessings or curses. What happens to us after life here on earth is between the individual and Heaven. I guess the squirrels, fluffy and cute as they are, would be divided anyway. After there are red-tre squirrels, and I'm sure if I knew any technical information about the squirrels I could list a bunch of other different types

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