

opinions

10
The Daily Collegian
Thursday, June 11, 1987

editorial opinion

Sharing the spotlight

Most fans are aware of how much Penn State is influenced by its sports programs. And most are also aware of the hard work, dedication and sacrifice required to become a national champion.

But, contrary to popular belief, football is not the only sport that receives national attention for its reputation as a model collegiate program. This year the gridiron giants will have to share the spotlight with the Lady Lion lacrosse team.

On May 16, the Lady Lions earned their fourth national championship in nine years by downing the previously undefeated Lady Owls of Temple 7-6.

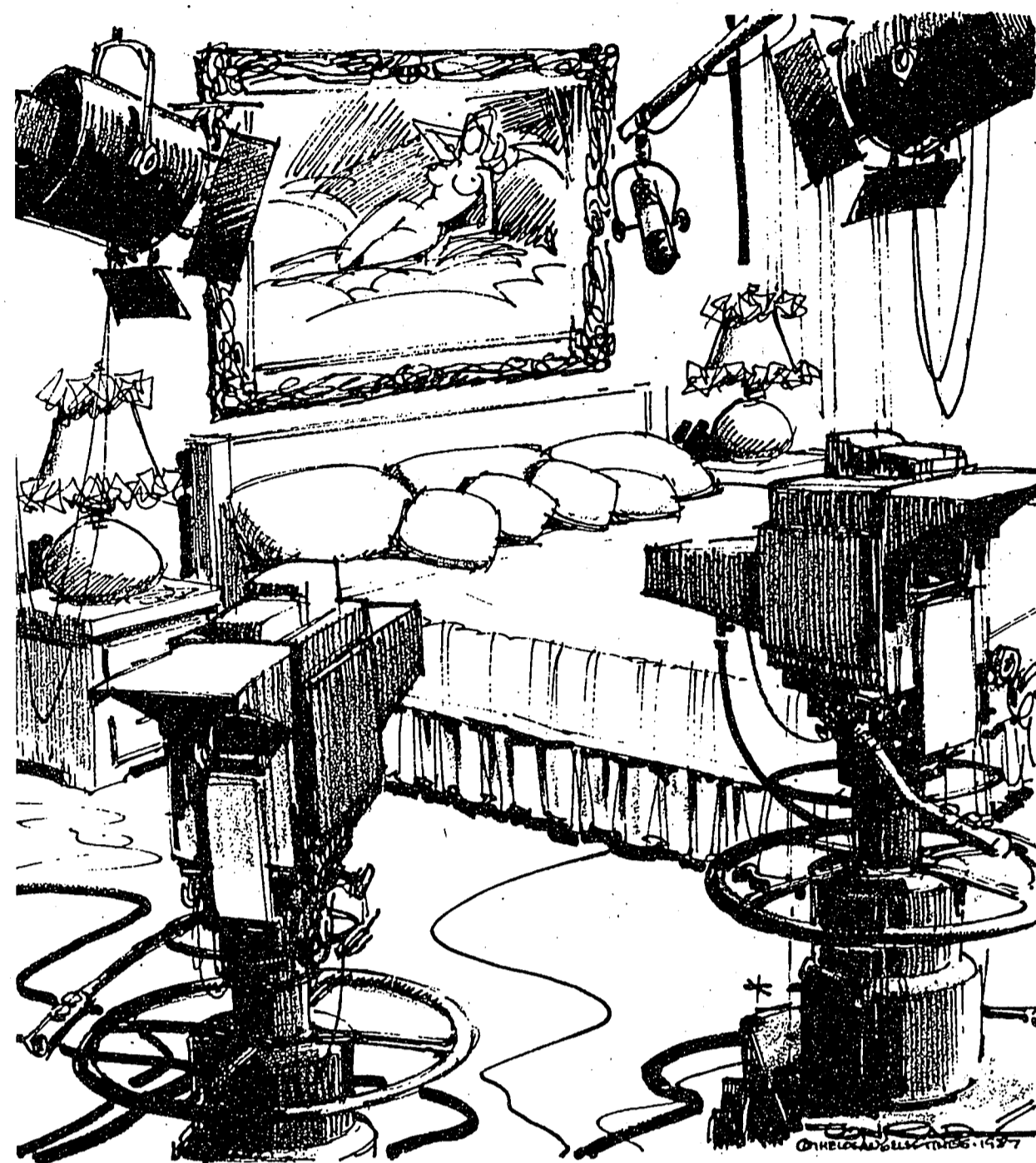
The victory marked the end of a 17-2 season and the team's first national title since 1980. And it paralleled the Fiesta Bowl as a showcase for late-game heroics.

Hail to the Lady Lions for their star-studded performance. Beth Stokes and Tami Worley led the way on offense with three goals apiece while Chris Vitale anchored the defense holding Temple All-American Gail Cummings at bay. Netminder Sue Sommers preserved the Lady Lions' slim lead with 11 saves.

To each goes the credit for the title victory. Credit for the national championship, however, belongs to the entire squad for persevering through a 19-game season and a seven-year drought. Hail to the Lady Lions for grace under pressure. They rallied to stop a late-game surge by the Lady Owls and held their formidable opponents in check through the final 2:45. No other team can lay claim to that feat this season.

Hail to Sue Schetz for her inspirational coaching. She has led the Lady Lions to the title game in each of her two years as head coach. With a record like that, there's little room for improvement. And hail to the latest team of Penn State ambassadors to return to Happy Valley with a national championship. No one is more deserving of a hero's welcome.

Move over Joe Paterno and the Nittany Lions. It's time to make room for Sue Schetz and the Lady Lion lacrosse team.



ALL SET FOR THE 1988 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Columnists Wanted

Are you interested in becoming a columnist for The Daily Collegian for Summer Semester 1987? If so, then we are interested in hearing from you. You don't have to be a journalism or English major to write for us, but you must be currently enrolled as a student at the University.

Columnists will be expected to write proficiently on national and local issues currently capturing the public's attention. What we want are ORIGINAL, well-written, well-researched and insightful columns (not old high school term papers). They can range from humorous to political or can be politically humorous, whichever you prefer. We ask that you be able to present these issues in new and different ways that will

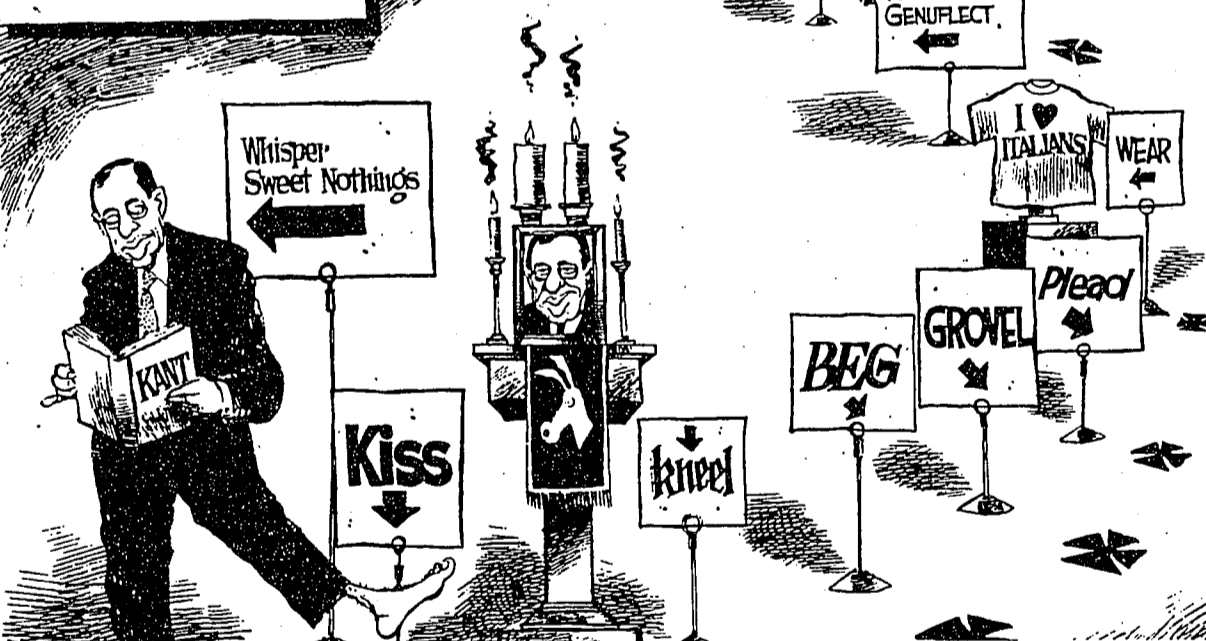
challenge and amuse our readers. The editorial/opinion page offers opportunities to write creative and opinionated pieces along with a chance to flex some of your mental muscle. If all this excitement sounds right up your alley, you may be just who we are looking for this summer.

Anyone interested in becoming a columnist for the Collegian should stop into our offices in 126 Carnegie building to pick up an application. Completed applications should be returned, along with two typed samples of your writing, to Opinion Editor Meg Culhane by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 19th. NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Questions may be directed to Meg Culhane at 865-1828.

Worthy Words

"Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."
— Vince Lombardi, former Head Coach of the Green Bay Packers

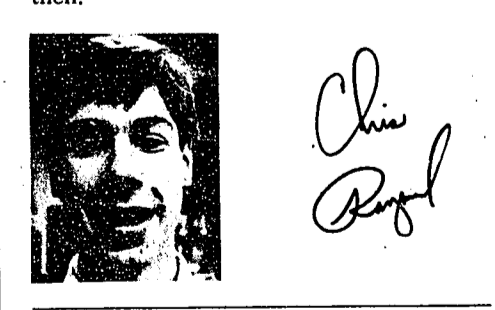
How Cuomo Might Be Persuaded...



Censorship

A growing problem among college newspapers that must not be taken lightly

Nearly six weeks have passed since the last Collegian rolled off the press at the Centre Daily Times and a lot of blue-chip stories have escaped our coverage since then.



The leading Democratic candidate was driven from his race for the presidency, Congress started its investigation into the events surrounding the Iran-Contra scandal and 37 servicemen were killed in a missile attack in the Persian Gulf. There was one incident, however, that escaped the attention of much of the nation's media — an incident made more poignant by the pump and circumstance surrounding the Collegian's 100th anniversary celebration last month.

On May 15, the Daily Pennsylvanian, the University of Pennsylvania's student newspaper, went to press with a pair of hard-hitting front-page news stories. One told of an accounting professor accused of raping a 4-year-old girl and the other told of four students arrested on drug charges. Shortly after the issue hit the streets, 600 copies disappeared from two distribution points in Penn's Wharton School.

Penn's student editor charged Wharton School officials with stealing the papers. The Wharton administration said an individual had removed the papers and later returned them. Though the disappearance of 600 newspapers should by no means rival the scope of the three national stories I mentioned above, it would be an injustice to let the incident get lost in the shuffle of day-to-day news events.

Censorship of the college press is not something that should be taken lightly. It is an issue of growing concern among journalism professionals — and an issue that merits the attention of others. In 1986 alone, the Student Press Law Center in Washington reported 550 requests for legal advice, up from 371 the year before.

As Ivan Holmes, a professor at the University of Arkansas, discovered in a study of college media, censorship can take many forms including threats, stolen newspapers, cuts in financial aid and the suspension of reporters or editors. What's more, it has many proponents including administrators, faculty advisors and even student government officials.

"It seems to me that, these days, far too many university administrators are more concerned about their image than about the pursuit of truth," Holmes wrote in the Columbia Journalism Review. "This has led to an intimidation of the campus press, to the point that journalists are considered troublemakers if they ask tough questions. Today the important thing on campus is to make the university look good. So a university newspaper that tries to publish honest hard news is cut out on every front."

Unfortunately censorship of the college media is destined to become more in vogue as the nation's higher education system becomes more dependent on a strong public image to secure funding. That is, of course, unless something is done to stem the tide. In a statement responding to the student

editor's charges, Penn's Wharton officials readily confirmed their commitment to freedom of the press, but they lamented the "negative impression" the Daily Pennsylvanian's coverage left on Alumni Day. The coverage was "inset inappropriate and not reflective of the current state of a great university that has much to be proud of."

Last month during the Collegian's 100th anniversary celebration, University President Bryce Jordan affirmed his commitment to a free collegiate press.

"It is an independence that, quite candidly, is not always comfortable for the administration," he said. "But considering the alternatives, it is an independence that is not only easy, but also correct to support and defend."

"At its best, (a student newspaper) is alert to and involved with the life of the campus," he added. "At its best, it is a contributor to the development of a strong school spirit — not by being an uncritical 'booster,' but rather by reflecting the rich diversity inherent in what James Bryant Conant so eloquently described as the 'hallowed ground' of the university."

However, as David Jones, editor in charge of national editions for the New York Times, pointed out in his speech: "We cannot limit our concerns to the Penn State campus because there appears to be too much of a feeling around the nation that college students are not to be trusted to publish a newspaper..."

"Sometimes people come along who say that this is all irresponsible and dangerous and that we can't let a bunch of juveniles risk the reputation of the university," Jones said. "But I submit that mentality is alien to the spirit of inquiry that epitomizes a true university. And I would urge that no university president succumb to this delusion."

It is ironic that the Wharton School incident happened in this — the 200th anniversary of our nation's Constitution — in the very city where that great document was born. But perhaps, there is no better time to reflect back on the genius of our founding fathers and take note of their all-important First Amendment.

Chris Raymond is a senior majoring in journalism and the editor of The Daily Collegian.

Please Write

Are you angry at a recent editorial, article or column printed in The Daily Collegian and are your friends are thoroughly bored with the fact that you've reread it at dinner for the last three nights in a row?

Don't bore your friends or ruin a good dinner, write a letter-to-the-editor and let others in Happy Valley know what's on your mind. The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and area residents concerning current issues and ideas locally, nationally or internationally. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than two pages. If you believe a topic merits more of an in-depth statement then you may submit a forum. Forums also should be typed, double-spaced, but may be up to three pages long. Author or authors should include

name, ID number, local address and telephone number on each letter. Writers should submit their letters in person to the Collegian office in 126 Carnegie during business hours, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Due to a large volume of letters, we cannot guarantee that all will be printed. Opinion Editor Meg Culhane reserves the right to edit letters for length and also hold letters that are judged libelous or in poor taste.

the Collegian
daily

Thursday June 11, 1987
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Editor

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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. Students' letters should include semester 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. Names 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 standards of good taste. Because of the number of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all the letters it receives.

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