

editorial opinion

Help the homeless help themselves

They spend their days in search of comfort—a little food, some pocket change and perhaps a discarded-but-unsent cigarette. At night, they litter our nation's streets sleeping in doorways, on park benches or under cardboard boxes. They are our nation's homeless and their plight is destined to become one of the greatest injustices in the history of mankind.

In recent weeks, public officials in Los Angeles and New York City have lamented the futility of solving the riddle before them—fitting too many bodies into too few beds. New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has pushed for emergency funds to build new buildings for the homeless and rehabilitate old ones. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Police Chief Daryl Gates have suggested prison, at least until a sufficient number of beds can be found.

While each searches for the correct answer, the problem continues to grow. It seems the fundamental difficulty is money. Neither city has enough to adequately shelter those driven from their homes. But an experiment now under way in New York City may change all that. Housing

Alert—a two-year, \$2 million program—is designed to strengthen fragile living arrangements before families at risk are forced onto the streets.

Preventive measures sponsored by the program include simple solutions such as providing a sleepaway couch for families doubled up with friends or relatives or providing weekend day-care facilities for children. With those acts, caseworkers hope to provide down-trodden families with an incentive to remain in neighborhoods where they may eventually find permanent housing on their own.

The cost of such services is relatively minor in comparison to the cost of housing a family of three in a welfare hotel. In fact, cost effective measures such as those may actually pay for themselves when one considers the alternative.

The researchers involved in this project deserve credit for their ingenuity. The logic behind their experiment—aiding families before they become public liabilities—is fundamentally sound. And certainly just. That's more than can be said for most of the current solutions.



Worthy Words

All the lonely people, where do they all belong?
— Paul McCartney

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,

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.

Post-Hart Campaigning



Longing for yesteryear, searching for an identity

Talk about an identity crisis. Our generation is confronted with one big crisis after the other. We can't even decide what to call ourselves. Are we the Me generation, the Post generation, or the AIDS generation?

Well, the boom years are just pictures in the family photo album now and it's time for a bust, the inevitable drought after those prosperous years. The apathetic calm following the storm. The Me generation. We are a mixed up, funny and sometimes pathetic carry-overs of what our parents boomed about throughout the '50s and '60s. We don't even know what to call ourselves. And we walk side by side, each afraid to comfort the other for fear of transmitting a bad pandemic disease. The four-letter killer.

I wonder if they miss the heroes they used to cheer and wonder if they laugh at the heroes we worship. I wonder if they miss the peace and the piece of mind. Our generation of prominent leaders are no longer allowed to possess the inviolable charm they did back then. What we want in the White House is a specimen who will not deviate the line of perfection we expect a President to walk. We want a celibate centurion, not a mere man. Something willing to

repossess its private life into the shriller of public opinion. And the Constitution, that sacred bible of our country, has been turned inside out, as the Great, Great, Great Founding godchildren play interpretation warfare to the tune of We The People. And all hopes for divestment in a not-so-black-and-white situation in South Africa are quickly turning into disenchantment. And we, as God's children, are still trying to play God. And the heroes we now worship are those who manage not to die from drug abuse; those who have given into life's greater temptations, seen the light and come back to life. We have given them an afterlife because we need something to believe in. We pack stadiums to the hot dog stands waiting to touch the "gods of the game" while abusing and overcare. And we are still trying to play the Big Man in the sky. The baby-boomers left us with our hands full of questions. Where do we go from here? Up... down... sideways? Following the yellow-brick road paved with the best intentions seemed to lead to the Promised Land. But no sooner have we begun the trip, than we realize what an amazing grace land it could be: if we ever arrive. And if it's the American Dream we are all searching so head-over-heels for, it will be soon enough before we wake up and figure out that maybe we have been asleep.

Meg Culhane is a senior majoring in Journalism and is the opinion editor of *The Daily Collegian*.

the Collegian

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Chris Raymond
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Glenn B. Roulger
Business Manager

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About the Collegian: *The Daily Collegian* and *The Weekly Collegian* are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Students of The Pennsylvania State University write and edit both papers and solicit advertising material for them. *The Daily Collegian* is published Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the summer, and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the semester. It is distributed on the University Park campus. *The Weekly Collegian* is mailed to Commonwealth campus students, parents of students, alumni and other subscribers who want to keep abreast of University news.

police log

• A diamond ring and a Rolex watch with a combined value of \$6,400 was reported missing Wednesday by State College resident Wendall Davis, State College Bureau of Police Services said.

• A \$350 drill kit was reported missing Wednesday from a construction site at 418 E. College Ave. by Snyder Electric Co., 1654 Hawthorne Drive, State College police said.

—by Karl Hoke

Child caseworkers lose heart to AIDS

By PHYLIS MESSINGER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Fear of becoming emotionally attached to a child who will soon die of AIDS is one of the biggest obstacles facing caseworkers seeking foster homes for the small but growing number of children with the disease, child welfare officials say. "Much of what we deal with in child welfare is highly emotional," says Theodore Allen of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services. "When it comes to AIDS, it's even more so."

Allen, speaking at a conference Wednesday, said his state's regular foster parents were reluctant to bring AIDS-exposed children into their homes. A foster parents group in New Jersey then advertised for volunteers, but only a few families responded.

Dr. Virginia Anderson, of the Registry of AIDS Pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, said finding foster homes for young AIDS sufferers is complicated by people's fear that other children in the family might become infected and by their reluctance to become emotionally attached to the AIDS-stricken child.

The incidence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in children is still relatively rare; fewer than 600 cases have been reported in the United States so far. But experts believe the number will multiply as the disease spreads among mothers who are intravenous drug abusers or who

had sexual contact with men with AIDS. Allen and Anderson were among the speakers at a two-day conference on "Children and AIDS" held in Washington for child welfare workers. The conference, which ended Wednesday, was sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America, a privately supported group that works to assist deprived, neglected and abused children.

"It's taken some time for AIDS to be considered a subject for child welfare specialists," said Ina Denton, program director at the Children's Home and Aid Society in Chicago. "For too long, AIDS has been consid-

ered a gay problem." Allen said his department developed a policy for dealing with AIDS sufferers after some staff members refused to work with children with the disease. The policy says all people working for the Division of Youth and Family Services have to serve everyone in need, including AIDS patients.

Allen said the division also ran a one-day training program for all staff that included information on where to seek additional help. He also advocates testing when there is some indication that a child might have the disease. That touched off a vehement rebuttal from another conference speaker, Damien Martin,

executive director of the Institute for the Protection of Gay and Lesbian Youth in New York. Martin contended that AIDS testing "is done for one reason — exclusion. My argument is that testing should be avoided. If you do test, you should know why and what you're going to do with the results."

David Lloyd, an attorney for the child protection division of Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, also urged caution in testing and said child care workers should be careful not to discriminate against young AIDS sufferers or against employees who refuse AIDS testing.

14-year-old quarantined for AIDS

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A 14-year-old who has been exposed to the AIDS virus has been placed in a psychiatric hospital under what is apparently the state's first quarantine order involving the disease.

Escambia Circuit Judge William Frye ordered the boy confined to University Hospital last week after a Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services counselor told him the boy was sexually active and presented a public health risk.

Frye issued his order on an emergency basis, without a hearing, and will review his decision at a hearing next Tuesday.

Joyner Sims, administrator of the state AIDS program in Tallahassee, said Thursday he believed it was the first quarantine order in Florida involving AIDS. "This is perhaps the most outrageous thing I've ever heard of as a panic response to AIDS, and, believe me, I've heard everything," said Ben Schatz, director of the National Gay Rights Advocate's AIDS Civil Rights Project in San Francisco.

State officials, however, say they had no choice. Other reasonable means of correcting the problem had been exhausted and no less restrictive alternative than University Hospital existed, said health department lawyer Rodney M. Johnson. The boy is sexually active and stayed away from his home two to three nights every week, according to the department.

Connie Ruggles, an department spokeswoman in Tallahassee, said the agency was attempting to find an alternative to University Hospital. In an interview Wednesday with the Pensacola News Journal, the boy said he wanted to return to his Pensacola home.

"All I want to do is get out and get my freedom," he said, vowing that he would refrain from sexual contact. The boy said he had been under department supervision since he was about 6 because of a variety of problems, including frequently running away from home. At the age of 4, he said, he was involved in sex with a man. "It seems like I never really have been a kid," he said.

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