

editorial opinion

Searching for justice

"If I have to appoint another one Supreme Court justice, I'll try to find one that they'll object to just as much as they did this one."

— President Reagan, on selecting a new nominee for Supreme Court

As expected, Reagan's defiant posture on the next search for Judge Solomon to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court has met with the expected counter-defiance by a leader of the opposition. The Senate majority leader, Robert Byrd, said that if Reagan persists in engaging in "innuendo and bitterness," the president's next nominee would be an endangered species.

Based on what has happened to Judge Robert Bork, Sen. Byrd's threat has a great deal to recommend that it be taken seriously. Then, too, Sens. Biden and Kennedy, two of Byrd's colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, have expressed their own views on how — and when — to deal with the next Reagan nominee.

If the next name put forward by the White House to fill the court vacancy encounters only half the battle Judge Bork did, it is unlikely that the court will reach full complement before next year.

For the last couple of months, the focus has been on the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Judge Bork hearings. However, across the way from Capitol Hill stands the Supreme Court. It is here that the real focus of the judicial process can be seen.

Consider the consequences of a vacant seat on the court. In the term before Justice Lewis Powell retired, nearly one-third of

the court's 145 signed opinions were decided by a 5-4 vote.

In (most) of these split decisions, Associate Justice Powell voted with the majority. Mostly, the former justice took the conservative line on criminal issues and the liberal position on social issues.

Given the political bent of the remaining eight justices (and the recent 4-4 deadlock votes, which Justice Powell frequently broke), it will not be long before the even-split votes will stalemate some court decisions. Such equal judicial balance, without the presence of an X factor, to tip that balance, will render the court impotent.

The practical consequence of the absence of a ninth justice is that in 4-4 decisions the Supreme Court's deliberations will be just so much judicial wheel-spinning. Lower court rulings will stand, no precedent will be created, and litigants will be worse off in time and money than they were before the nation's court of last resort heard their cases.

It's time for the president and the senators to get on with the people's business. Fill the court vacancy, and do it before the winter snows melt.

That timetable may seem overly pessimistic. But given the timetable we have seen so far, that appraisal may be overly optimistic. It's time for cooler heads at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to prevail, lest the voters decree a plague on both their houses — the White one and the Upper Chamber.

The Allentown Morning Call



the daily Collegian

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1987
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reader opinion

One who knows

Like several other Collegian reporters, I was in the Carrier Dome during the Penn State-Syracuse game for what I like to call "The Disaster in the Dome." Being from Syracuse, it was truly embarrassing to lose to the Orangemen my senior year.

While Mark Ashenfelter's column about the game did bring up some important observations about the enthusiasm at Syracuse two weekends ago, there are a few things Nittany Lion fans should know. I used to be one of those long-suffering Orange football fans before coming to University Park.

When I grew up, the SU football program never received the hype that I witnessed at this game. Even after the Carrier Dome was built, the football team had problems outdrawing the basketball team! And let's face it, almost every team in the East considers Penn State their biggest game of the year; to Syracuse, this was literally their biggest game in 27 years!

Another reason for the pre-game hype was the recent appearance of the basketball team in the Final Four. Talking to friends while I was in Syracuse, I found out the enthusiasm before the game was similar to the Final Four Week. In reality, then, the seeds for Syracuse football support were planted almost seven months ago. (Too bad Penn State support isn't passed on to basketball.)

I have no argument with Mark's claim that the fans here at PSU are getting complacent and, at times, just plain bored with Penn State football. After winning the National Championship and losing more than half its starters, some people were due for a rude awakening. It's time we get up and start cheering for this team; losing two games doesn't make them any less deserving of our support. I will be at Beaver Stadium, along with 83,000 other people, for the West Virginia game and hope to hear plenty of noise.

To Stacey Jacobson, who commented on the painting of the Nittany Lion shrine, revenge is sweet; let's go to Syracuse before the game next year and "peel" the Orange!

Jim Teske
senior-meteorology

No good

What good did it do the Penn State community for the Collegian to publish the Nazi ads that were posted all over campus this past weekend? If you were to say this was a decision error on the editor's behalf, I would have to agree with you wholeheartedly. The only thing that the pictures did was to promote free advertising for this perverted organization. (And to think of the prices USG has to pay for advertising in the Collegian!)

I do deem the article necessary to make the public aware of the ignorance that still exists today, even in our own community. I believe Mr. Kroger did a fine job of pointing this out in his article. The "chief" however deemed it necessary that irrelevant illustrations be used. There is a complete lack of respect for the intelligence of the Collegian reader (as if we wouldn't have understood the racial slurs without pictures). I don't ever recall that I had to be made aware of an existing problem through illustrated "trash." There probably are a lot of other readers who would tend to agree with me.

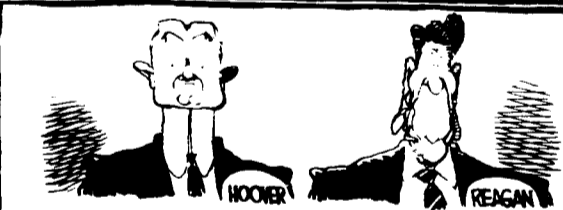
The freedom of press I believe in very strongly, so there is no excuse for ACLU members to be jumping down my throat. Freedom of press is our "God given" right, and I agree. However, when that right is abused and entices violence or causes detrimental harm to the community, then such writings should not be publicly displayed. It should be made available upon request but it should not be exposed in a newspaper where a portion of the public may be offended by it.

The Collegian had no regard for the interest of the community. To make people aware of problems is one thing, but publicize free advertisements for a fascist/racist organization is complete disregard for the community, and their actions to try to resolve these problems. It would not surprise me if the Collegian's "picture" sets the minority retention program back for years. I now not only know of the problem, I also know the organization responsible and the address where I can "subscribe" thanks to the advertisement.

D.P. Conti
junior-economics/
business logistics

BAD SIGNS.

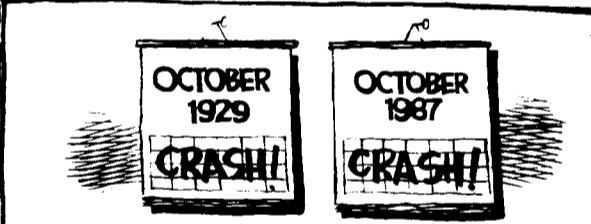
CLIMANDE...
...OF THE...
...BY...



2. Republican presidents with 6 letters in last name.



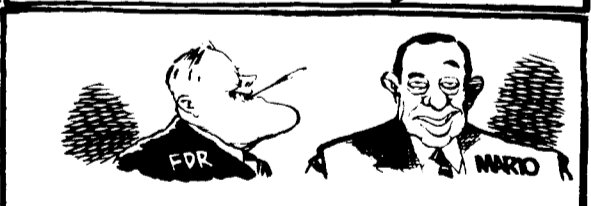
4. More of the same.



1. It happened in October.



3. They say the same dumb things.



5. New York governor waiting in the wings.

The art of leisure is simple to learn and easy to practice, but more difficult to understand

Euroloafing.

More and more I am convinced that this word should be placed in the dictionary. Euroloafing is a trend which has already, and will continue to, work its way casually into the lives of Americans — particularly the schedules of those generations known as yuppies and pre-yuppies, or college students. I apologize here for the sweeping generalizations that will follow not because I place any faith in their worth, but because they are necessary to illustrate a point.

Although "euroloafing" is not yet in the dictionary, the idea has been passed around in this country by word of mouth, if not by demonstration, for awhile now. I first heard about it last year, although some will say they've not only heard about it but have been doing it all their lives. Still, if the concept wasn't at least somewhat new and foreign, it wouldn't be catching on and experiencing the vogue it is today.

I suspect that if you haven't been a part of euroloafing yourself, you have at least seen people going about it either singly or in groups. Outdoor cafes are ideal for this, and in colder weather apartment happy hours as a backdrop are fine. Ultimately the location isn't important, so long as relaxing and taking in the view or atmosphere are possible. And of course the company.

Friends to share in the fun of euroloafing are very important. And often euroloafers who aren't interacting socially with others

can be found amusing themselves by just watching other people, coffee or a drink in hand. If you are not of that discerning age of 21, I suppose you could sip an iced tea and try to appear slightly tipsy.

Certainly that is ridiculous; the point is that euroloafing is not achieved by posing, but by slightly altering the attitude to see life differently, if only for a short while.



Jeannette Gibson

As I said, the concept is relatively new to me, and so defining it further becomes difficult. I feel more confident in the attempt however after talking with European and American friends about the art of euroloafing. One teacher I had in high school, a French woman whom I respect very much, spoke with me briefly the other day about the differences between European and American lifestyles, differences which I believe to be the foundation for the establishment of euroloafing first in Europe.

Americans, she explained, tend always to be in a hurry, to live for the future. Europeans on the other hand see themselves as a link between the past and the future, and so live more for the present. Neither of these lifestyles, it could be argued, is the better, but the purpose is not to determine their "rightness," it is simply to consider the cultural differences between Americans and Europeans, and how they might affect their respective outlooks on leisure.

One magazine article I read went into detail so far as to suggest that there are variances in the way different countries in Europe euroloaf — cultural development of the art! But I suspect that's getting carried away, and to examine the idea in that much detail defeats the purpose of euroloafing itself, which is to relax.

The mechanics of euroloafing, a process whereby one takes time out to enjoy life, are strangely enough the same as those which govern the scientific world. And you don't have to take science classes to be aware of the principle first hand. You can look instead at your apartment or room for example. It's a mess. You can expend energy to keep it neat, but it's much easier to let it reach chaos before acknowledging that you're going to have to spend a day "re-ding up" the place. This is entropy — elements naturally falling to the level where the least energy is expended.

The concept of euroloafing is not entirely

the same, but it isn't entirely different. The world today is fast-paced (it will be faster-paced tomorrow, but in the spirit of euroloafing we won't worry about that). In the business world men and women work until they reach the breaking point of stress and find themselves unhappy with their lives. On college campuses, even as early as midsemester, there are already victims of "burnout." These are people who fight entropy, who put their energy into their work until like a rubberband which is stretched to the limit, they snap.

Euroloafing is the natural reaction to these circumstances — a level of less energy expenditure where attitudes can be readjusted to deal with life better. It's a short social vacation.

A friend of mine who is French (although I often tease him by telling him that he is surely American) looked at me strangely when I asked him why he would want to euroloaf so often. The king of the euroloafers appeared to instantly find the question ludicrous. "Why wouldn't you want to relax?" he asked. Any answer I could muster only incriminated me as one of those people with workaholic lifestyles.

The word euroloafing carries both positive and negative connotations which I believe are results of that "hustle and bustle" lifestyle many people live today. The first syllable, "euro," short for Euro-

pean, generally conjures desirable images. Americans have adopted European fashion, cooking, vacations and other trends over the years (although that's not to say that the reverse isn't true as well).

On the other hand "loafing" suggests laziness, and it's difficult to become successful today if one is lazy. However, to attach the notion of laziness to euroloafing is to miss the mark — there is a fine line between the two.

Perhaps then drawing that line is the tricky part of euroloafing. Relaxation is beneficial to the soul, over-indulgence past a certain point is not. Traditionally however, Americans have been quite well-suited to adopt the middle ground and I believe that with practice anyone can learn to allow themselves the respite they deserve without crossing into the realm of decadence. And it's good to know that practice of euroloafing is painless — it does not have attached to it the same dread as practicing your high school band instrument did.

The psychology behind euroloafing still intrigues me. In today's fast-moving stressful world, for every action (work-work-work) there is an equal and opposite reaction (you-know-what).

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