

Terrorism

--Adam Levenstein

Terrorism used to be something that people in the United States never thought about. "It can't affect me," they thought. "It's happening over there, in some foreign country or something."

Indeed, what the American people usually refer to as "terrorism" has not exactly been common here in the United States. When the word *terrorism* is mentioned, a person will typically think of some Islamic weirdo who wants to kill everyone. Not only are these thoughts racist in nature, they also are far from the truth.

Terrorism refers to the killing of innocent people for political gain; generally, this definition can apply to many organizations, from the "Sons of Gestapo" to the United States government.

What has happened in the past five years that can qualify as terrorism in the United States? In Pensacola, Florida, a total of two doctors and an elderly pro-choice escort have been shot to death as part of a ploy to terrorize the pro-choice movement into submission. This is not often considered "terrorism," but what else can you call it? The doctors were doing their jobs, which are perfectly legal. The escort was

there to escort women into the abortion clinic; escorting is done, on a volunteer basis, as a political statement. I am an escort in Pittsburgh myself.

The one event that has truly awakened the phrase "domestic terrorism" is the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building. Timothy McVeigh, the alleged bomber (a conviction has yet to be established), is a far-right wing activist with ties to the militia movement and the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas. Although the true reason has yet to be given, it has been hinted that the bombing was revenge for the government massacre of the Branch Davidians.

Another terrorist that has received recent attention is the anonymous letter-bomber known as the Unabomber. The Unabomber is alleged to be an anarchist, and somehow is basing his violent acts on the anarchist movement. It is also quite possible that the Unabomber is more than one person, all of which are "copycats." Little about the Unabomber is known.

Of course, the most recent act of terrorism that has arisen nationwide attention is the hijacking of a school bus in Miami, Florida. The hijacker,

unarmed but claiming to have a gun, was a waiter and owner of two Chinese restaurants who "couldn't take the pressure." Nick Sang owed approximately \$15,000 to the Internal Revenue Service, and ordered the driver to drive to the nearest office. Just before, he had gone to the local church service, where he ranted and raved as the pastor tried to calm him down.

"He was not rational," said the pastor. Afterwards, he stormed out and took control of the bus filled with young disabled children. Thus began the 15-mile trek, which ended with three bullets being fired into the hijacker from snipers. All of this because of a "disgruntled" taxpayer.

Incidents like this show that alienation is on the rise. As people begin to get more and more frustrated with capitalism, taxes, and the world in general, we will see more and more "terrorist" incidents in the United States. Catalino "Nick" Sang was not the true criminal in this incident. The main criminal involved was the capitalist political and economic system that creates the alienation problem in this country.

BACCHUS buries myth

C-r-a-c-k, ooph, thud.

Did you hear that noise out of Washington, D.C., the first weekend of this month?

It was the sound of a stereotype crumbling. And about time, I say.

You know this stereotype: College students want to party. Where is the keg? Who has a fake ID? Can we sneak alcohol past the RA in our dorm? Or, should we go to a park?

The goal, of course, is to drink until you are smashed. Getting wasted is perfect, according to the stereotype.

The party I went to in Washington the first weekend of this month was a blast. It's true that the 700 college students attending were a bit compulsive about drinking. The difference is that smashed is not cool with them. They want students--and adults--to practice responsible drinking and healthy lifestyles.

The event was the General Assembly of the BACCHUS/GAMMA Peer Education Network--and the kick-off of the celebration of the group's 20th anniversary. BACCHUS' work is premised on the idea that students can play a uniquely effective role in encouraging other students to consider, talk honestly about, and develop responsible habits and attitudes toward alcohol and other health-related issues.

At this point, a lot of students and faculty on this

campus probably are scratching their heads, asking themselves if a group like this has been around for 20 years, why haven't they heard of it?

Actually, you may have seen BACCHUS at work but you did not recognize it because here at Behrend our peer education organization was just established in the Fall of 1994. We are one of the more than 700 such groups in 49 states (and counting) in the BACCHUS/GAMMA Peer Education Network.

You probably know at least one of the big projects BACCHUS chapters stage each year--National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week and Safe Spring Break.

We simply believe that if drinking is on the agenda, it should be done responsibly.

Sometimes that means a person will not drink at all.

Sometimes that means making sure there is a designated driver if your group is going out to party.

Sometimes that means not using drinking as an excuse for behavior that you would not do if you had not been drinking.

In short, it means being responsible--just what we supposedly are learning to be now that we are on our own. BACCHUS wants to see that stereotype of college kids binge drinking buried so deep it will never raise its ugly head again. Anyone want to sign up? If interested, contact Valerie Petro at Box #1518

Amy and Cathy

Dear Amy and Cathy,

Last week, we had a social gathering at our apartment. The next day, we woke up to find our cardboard cut-out of Mrs. Doubtfire had been abducted. Now, I am without my only role-model and mother-figure. What should I do? I feel a crisis of identity coming on, the results of which could be catastrophic to my stability. Please, please, help!

Worried and unable to afford psychoanalysis

Dear Worried and Broke,

The Serial Cardboard Cut-out Kidnapper strikes again! I believe there was a professor in the Humanities Department who had the same problem last semester. Hmm?

We do understand how horrible this must be for you, you poor dear. You are probably having hot flashes and everything. So let's take minute and plea for the safe return of Mrs. Doubtfire...

If anyone out there knows where Mrs. Doubtfire is, please contact us at the Collegian office. We'll arrange her safe return to this poor young man.

We know it's traumatic to lose a loved one. But, really, it will

all be okay. We promise. What you should do in the meantime, is look at this as a growing opportunity. It is time to move on. (There is no guarantee Mrs. Doubtfire will come back to you in one piece.) It is time to move past corrugated cardboard. We say, throw caution to the wind! Go out and get yourself a stuffed monkey! We guarantee in a week, you'll forget all about tired old Mrs. Doubtfire.

Amy and Cathy

P.S.: Rumor has it, Joe Paterno has a thing for Mrs. Doubtfire.

Dear Amy and Cathy,

The food selection at the Gorge is dwindling from semester to semester. It's difficult for a commuter student to get a good meal these days. Is there a conspiracy here? How do you suggest I survive, nutritionally, during the day?

Bland Palette

Dear Bland Palette,

What!?! Don't tell us you can't survive every day for four months on English muffins and watery



hot chocolate! What do you think they're running around here--some kind of catering service? Geeze!

Actually, if you think about it for a minute, I guess they really are running a catering service. There is just one problem. They are catering to a bunch of starved, desperate college students (most without cars) who cannot just run down to the nearest fast food cesspool and pick up a burger.

Unfortunately, we have a classic case of supply and demand. These students demand food, and they supply five-dollar pools of grease they tag as pizza.

We say, don't knock it 'til you tired it sweetie. We eat this stuff everyday and we're not growing any extra appendages or anything (at least not yet anyway). So, just cross yourself, close your eyes, and eat it! But if you still want Betty Crocker--you're going to have to pack a lunch.

Amy and Cathy

It's that time again...

It's called crunch time. That time when everything comes down to the wire and it feels as if there are assignments and due dates crawling out of your underwear drawer. The editors and staff of "The Collegian" would like to say take some time to chill and collect your thoughts. There's time to do everything, it's just a matter of setting priorities straight.

