

OPINION

Commentary

Exploitation: Jump on the Bandwagon

by Michael Wimms
Collegian Staff Writer

It seems there is a growing trend in the United States to pay tribute to the dead or unfortunate people of the world.

Examples of tributary songs are the recent releases from The Commodores and Diana Ross. Ross, on her album *Swept Away*, has a tribute to the late singer Marvin Gaye. The song "Missing You" is doing exceptionally well on the charts.

The Commodores have also

done a tribute to Marvin Gaye, as well as the late great Jackie Wilson. Their song "Night Shift" is also doing well on the charts. The conclusion that I have drawn from this is dead superstars are a commodity to their living fellow artists.

I don't mean to be callous, but profits speak louder than words. I will bet the sale of all these tributary records is bringing the record companies big bucks. I do not mean to imply that there is not a general concern for Mr.

Wilson's and Mr. Gaye's memories in these songs, but it can not be denied that profit was a major concern.

To further illustrate my point, I would like to return to The Commodores career after Lionel Richie left the group. They were at the bottom of the charts until a stroke of luck came, the death of Marvin Gaye and Jackie Wilson. Through the exploitation of this tragedy their career was revitalized.

You can observe the fact that the other cuts on the album are not doing so well. The same holds for Miss Ross, because the best selling song on her album is "Missing You".

There are others who have followed this trend. Elton John did a tribute to Marilyn Monroe called "Norma Jean". There have also been songs about John Lennon from his fellow Beatle friends.

Not all such exploitation is for money, some could be motivated by publicity. Some stars enjoy being in the public eye. To facilitate this they may get involved with community projects that help the poor. One such case could be the USA for Africa project. This project brought famous stars together to sing for the hungry people of the world.

The hunger issue has really come in to play, as of today.

Everyone wants to suddenly rush to the aid of the starving Africans. It seems the sick and hungry of other countries, like the United States, do not bring the same press or publicity as the Ethiopian plight does. I believe we should wash our own laundry, before we offer to clean someone else's.

Ricardo Montalban, Julio Iglesias, Sergio Mendes, and other famous Latinos have put their energy into making a video similar to the USA for Africa video. I do not criticize the effort, I question the motives behind it.

I neither advocate ignoring the plight around us, nor advocate exploiting the problem. Just as I do not advocate exploiting the dead in either film or in song; those that do are no better than leeches just waiting for a superstar to die so they can immortalize them in song, and collect on the sweet profits.

Students Deserve More Credit

by Anne Waskowitz
Collegian Staff Writer

I do not feel that our society gives students enough credit. So, I want to give every student credit.

As a student, I feel that we are subjected to more stress than many other professions. Sometimes it feels like we have pressure coming from every angle. There just isn't enough time in the day to accomplish everything that we are expected to accomplish. This is the reason that most of us

must stay up half the night to get work done.

Most students have pressure coming from teachers, parents, spouses, cocurricular activities, peers, roommates, or various financial areas. All of these pressures build up so much sometimes that it's amazing that we don't go crazy.

An example of this is commonly known as the "three test in one week syndrome". Why can't teachers alternate tests so that we have one or two tests in one week?

To add to these pressures, loans and financial aid are going down, and in many schools, including ours, tuition is going up. We are also being charged for our schedules of fall classes. These costs add up and it is very tough to work and go to school; this creates another pressure.

I would just like to tell every student that I understand the stress we are all under and I would also like to give every student the credit that is long overdue.

Army Packs Excitement Into ROTC Basic Camp

by Tom Milley
Collegian Staff Writer

"The most important things I gained from Basic Camp were respect and friendship. Before I came to camp, I didn't know what to expect. After five weeks, I can honestly say that I respect all the people I came in contact with.

Every officer and NCO I have met has treated me as respectfully as I have treated them. I discovered they could even laugh and when you jump to attention, salute with the wrong hand, and say, 'Uh, good morning, uh evening, I mean ma'am, I mean sir.' The drill sergeants were not the enemy but really the friend. Who else would be brave enough to come near a clumsy cadet holding a fully loaded M16?"

There are some things regarding the above quotation that may surprise you. You may have gathered that the cadet is talking about Army ROTC's Basic Camp, a six week session taken in place of the first two years of Army ROTC.

Basic Camp is different from Basic Training (which has nothing to do with ROTC). Basic Training is nine to nine-and-one-half weeks long, and is attended by individuals who are already members of the Active Army, US

Army Reserve, or the Army National Guard; that is to say, they are already under military obligation.

Basic Camp is attended only by cadets, who are under no military obligation at the onset, but are asked to make a decision whether or not to commit to remaining in the ROTC program at their colleges and universities when they return to school.

ROTC Basic Camp is held in several sessions throughout the summer at Ft. Knox, Ky., about 35 miles south of Louisville. The training received at Basic Camp is fast-paced, rigorous, and challenging! It concerns a multitude of military skills: Map Reading and Land Navigation, Rifle Marksmanship, Leadership Techniques, Individual and Unit Tactics, Communication, First Aid, Drill, Parades and Ceremonies, and of course Physical Training, in addition to Military Courtesy and Traditions.

Cadets earn \$600 for their short visit to Ft. Knox, on top of the free room and board which is in itself an interesting experience in military living.

The purpose of this article is to let you know that there's a door still open to you if you considered

the ROTC program as a means of self-development, or as a means of financing the remainder of your college career. Registration is necessary, so if this sounds interesting and you'd like to learn more about Basic Camp, or about the Army ROTC two-year scholarship program, see Maj. Hames or Cpt. Donahue in the ROTC office, they'd be glad to discuss your opportunities.

By now you may be wondering what was so surprising about the opening quote. Well consider this: that quote came from none other than Penn State's own Cadet Janet Drummond. That's right, even young ladies attend ROTC Basic Camp, and what's more: they enjoy it. Ghastly!

Here's what else she had to say: "My platoon provided me with friendships that I hope will last a long time. When you've gone through six weeks constantly in someone else's sight, you don't soon forget them. How could I forget the 57 people who screamed me through the sawdust at Heard Park? How could I forget the people that I rolled in the mud with, crawled in the dust with, laughed, cried and shined boots with? I couldn't."

Reader Opinion

Harriett Behrend Explains Her "Faithful Friend"

To the Bruno Club:

Every good wish for many hours of happiness. My dog Bruno, was a lover of all mankind, a faithful friend as long as he lived.

My parents gave him to me when I was 12 years old. He was two years at the time. He lived to be 14 years. So I had twelve years of the greatest love a dog can give. He traveled everywhere with me. In those days dogs were allowed in restaurants. He sat under the table.

Good Luck,
Harriet Behrend Ninow

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