

Editorial opinion
Up in arms over forecasts



Paula Maus, Collegian Editor

1986 will be a great year.

A local radio station reported that thin women are out, Madonna and Madonna accessories are out, and so are those tight fitting ameoba printed jeans (in my mind, at least).

"In" are Reeboks, Don Johnson and Sade (Shar-day), and buzz words like "wellness" and "intrapreneur".

But, job forecasters don't seem to have a grip on what is in or out for spring grads.

If you didn't notice, two "telling" job market articles appear in this issue. One says "...jobs to be had" (p.4) and the other, "well...too bad grads" (p.2).

The article giving grads hope, based on social forecaster and author John Naisbetts's findings, sees technical and non-technical grads having a smooth sail. The other, based on three reports, forsees a long haul for technical majors such as chemistry, engineering and computer science, however, liberal arts grads have it made.

Who do you believe? I say don't believe either.

Statistics and studies do impress with their slick language and presentations. But let's think of the individual here.

If you excel in your field of study and cop the right attitude, you can impress and succeed without the help of forecasters telling you what to study for finding the best job.

Statistics are misleading. They can also be depressing. I heard that in my field of study (Communications) only a very small percentage of graduates find appropriate employment.

But someone has to be in that percentage; if you go out with confidence you will be that someone.

DONALD KAUL

High-level diplomacy or schoolyard name-calling?



"You're a flake," says Mr. Reagan.

"You're another," says Mr. Khadafy.

"Barbarian!" says Mr. Reagan.

"Takes one to know one," Mr. Khadafy answers back.

This is high-level diplomacy? It sounds more like two of the less mature characters in "All My Children" having a spat.

Ronald Reagan hasn't done himself any great favors with the way he has handled the Khadafy-terrorism issue. He has come off looking a bit like a blowhard. There's been too much posturing, too much bluster, too much name-calling. In the process, he has managed to raise a punk like Khadafy to the level of hero in much of the Arab world.

On the other hand, he hasn't gotten us into a war yet, and that's a good thing. He has also avoided killing innocents, which is another good thing.

On the third hand, he hasn't done anything to stop the

terrorism.

What's a body to do? Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, was faced with a similar problem a couple of months ago. And he found a solution.

The problem was joined when four Soviet officials were kidnaped in Lebanon by a radical Moslem group that wanted the Soviet Union either to do something or stop doing something, I forget which.

The Soviet Union ignored the demand at first. They didn't send their fleet into the Persian Gulf, they didn't make threats, they didn't even tie yellow ribbons around their arms. I remember saying to myself at the time, "Ha! I always knew Jimmy Carter got a bad rap. Even the rough, tough Russians are impotent in the face of a hostage situation." Which shows what I know.

The kidnapers, seeking to put the ante, killed one of the Russians and dumped his body out on a street. They put out a message that the others would be similarly dealt with unless the Soviet Union met their demands. Still no Soviet response. No public response, that is.

Here is what the Soviets did, according to a report two weeks ago in the Jerusalem Post: They sent out a KGB hit team to kidnap a relative of the leader of the kidnapers, after which they castrated the unfortunate fellow and shot him through the head, probably in that order. They then sent the relevant parts in a package to the leader of the kidnapers with a note saying that other members of his family would be similarly dealt with unless the Soviet hostages were released. The Soviet hostages were released.

And Gorbachev made no speeches, called no one any names, made no threats.

There is an undeniable attractiveness to that sort of thing. It appeals to the moviegoer in us; the Godfather School of Statecraft. You don't need allies

for it, nor a resolution from the United Nations. No messing around, no hand-wringing, no pleading. You just go out and do what Clint Eastwood would do if he had a country, and wait for the happy ending. So what if that relative had no connection with the kidnapping; he probably was guilty of something.

We could get into that, I suppose. Indeed, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio has publicly suggested that we assassinate Khadafy. And you can make a case for it. Only Save the Whales liberals say that political assassinations are evil in all circumstances. Who knows how many lives might have been saved had someone assassinated Hitler in, say, 1938?

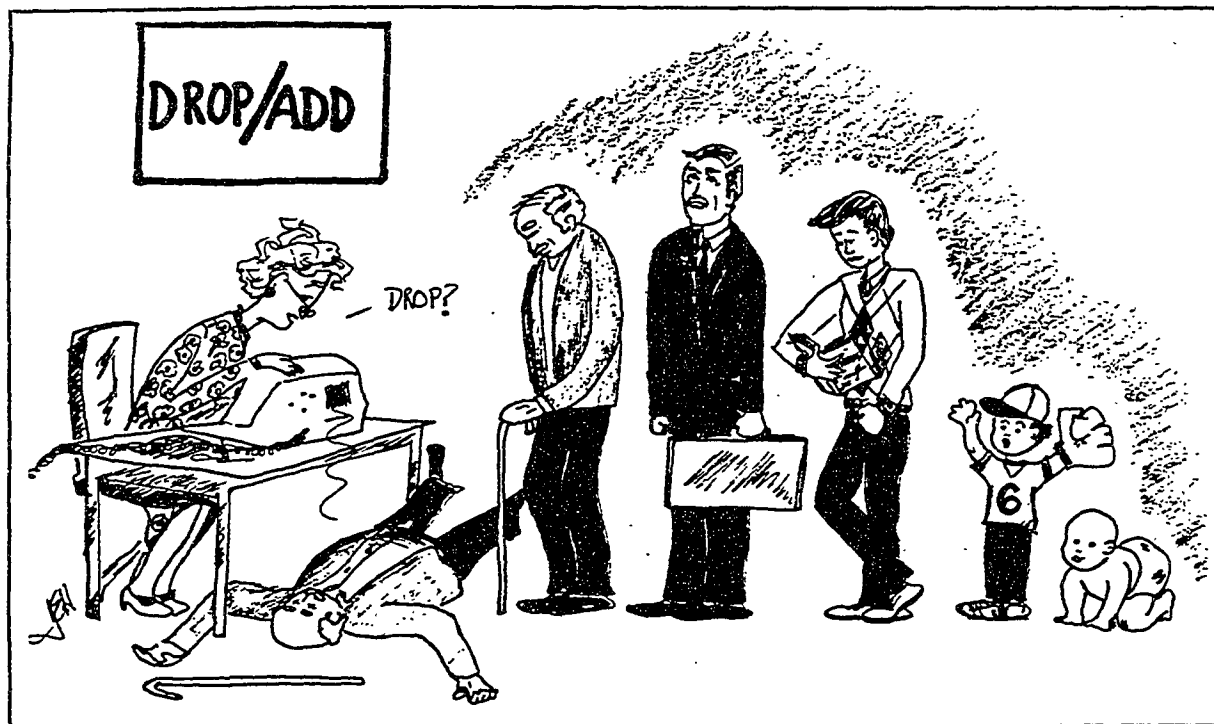
But we should be warned that it is a very tough game and not without consequences. The Soviet Union is a police state run by thugs, which gives it certain security advantages over open, democratic societies. Terrorists are not going to blow up the Moscow airport. They are not going to assassinate Soviet leaders. They will not even shoot off firecrackers in Red Square on May Day. It would not be allowed.

If we get into exchanging acts of terrorism, it will not end terror but excite it, and much closer to home. We will be forced to button up our society, bringing it closer to the Soviet model.

Remember what happened when we flirted with the idea of enlisting the Mafia to assassinate Fidel Castro in the early '60s? John F. Kennedy was the one who got assassinated. Perhaps the two events were unrelated. Perhaps.

The point is, a nation cannot act like a gangster-state without

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Mailing Address - Behrend Collegian, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563
Office located in Reed Union Building
Office Hours - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
Phone: 898-6221

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