

The Economy & American Quality

By: Ben Turrano

The economy is not in the best shape these days, as anyone can plainly see. Everyday we see long unemployment lines, empty stores, and fewer people spending their hard earned money. Several elected officials have expressed their interest and concern for the welfare of the general public as well as suggested a multitude plans to revitalize the economy.

However, they spend most of their time finding fault with every other country on earth for the recession. The recession is no one's fault but our own, and unless we open our eyes to the obvious and accept the fault, we cannot even hope to amend the problem. By blaming the Japanese for selling too many cars, televisions, VCR's, radios, etc. in America, we are literally throwing away the basic economic principle which this country created some 200 years ago. Does "free enterprise" sound familiar? We founded it for ourselves and exported the ideal all over the world. Basically, it states that anyone can sell anything if they make it good enough and sell it at a reasonable price.

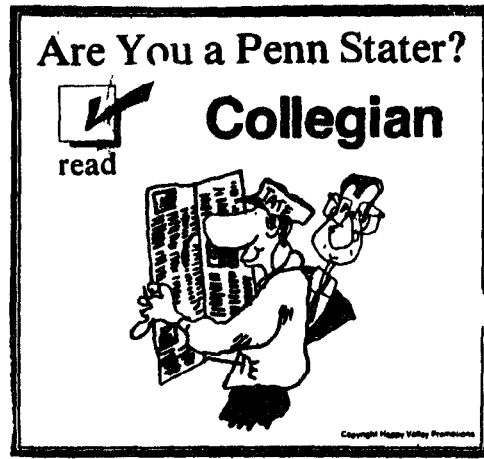
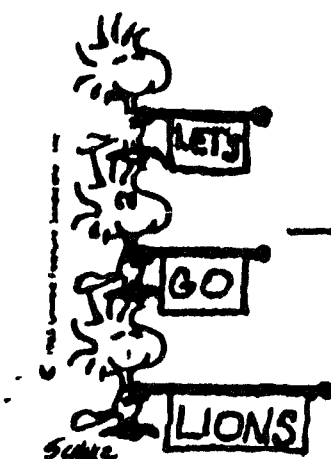
For example: the automobile industry; since that is where the most controversy lies. Some people say that American cars are just as reliable as their Japanese counterparts. Some might react to that statement by uncontrollable laughter, absolute agreement, or even by pity. Presently, in 1992, with the new models rolling into showrooms, this just might be true, but frankly I don't know either way because my car (an American model) is three years old. Regretably, if this is true of the new models it may be too late.

To better understand the present situation and what the future holds for us, we must first examine the past. American consumers are not stupid, in fact the typical American car buyer is usually the most conscientious buyer in the world. In the past few decades, the American Big Three (General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler) have not had the best track records. In fact, reoccurring design flaws, poor workmanship, and less than satisfactory dealer performance have become a sadly accepted norm for American cars.

I present a true story of a typical middle class American family: hard working, God fearing, and strongly patriotic. I know them, and in fact I work

with a member of this family. In 1986, they purchased a Buick Skylark which had ten miles on the odometer when they parked it in front of their home. Today it has approximately 56,000 miles on it, average mileage by most people's standards. The car, almost a member of the family, was taken care of and was never involved in an accident. Yet in those 56,000 miles the third brake light was replaced several times, four complete sets of tires were used, four mufflers were replaced, four sets of brakes (front and back) have been replaced, and this is only the beginning. Cancer and various forms of rust can be found all over the body, the radiator was replaced several months ago, and the intake and exhaust manifold gaskets were also replaced. If you should be lucky enough to go for a ride in this car you'd find that the front seat-belts don't work and the passenger door cannot be opened from the inside, but don't try rolling the window down to open the door because it has come off the track several times and you may not be able to roll it back up. God forbid you might actually have to drive this "car". You would find that the steering column is loose, in fact it has already landed in the lap of its owner while moving. You might find the driver controls working if you pick a good day to try it out. If they are working, consider yourself lucky since the entire dash lighting system was replaced because it generated intense heat, such heat that it melted the plastic cover and the stereo components also had to be replaced. The engine itself seems to be the only part of the car which hasn't fallen prey to quality gremlins, although the starter was replaced three times. These are not the only problems this car has had but some had to be eliminated for space and time. The owner informs me that this menace will be paid off in July and she reports "I know I will NEVER buy a G.M. car again!" Do you blame her?

Cont. Pg. 6



What Dr. King Would Be Doing Today

By: Corey Gesford

On January 20th, over 100 people gathered in the Highacres Commons to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Barbara Reynolds, an editor for USA Today's Inquiring page, was the featured speaker. Ms. Reynolds strayed from the usual rhetoric of such Dr. King presentations, by not dwelling on what King did, but what he would be doing today.

"All too much is focused on Dr. King's 'I have a dream' speech," said Reynolds. "Revisionists try to portray Dr. King as a benign Rip Van Winkle sort of man who spent most of his time dreaming. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"We must learn how to live the dream," continued Reynolds. "Nothing would displease King more than to sit year after year discussing what he did, without you deciding what you were going to do!"

Focusing on crime, drugs, sexual harrassment, the economy, and last year's Gulf War, Reynolds asked why college students remain so passive these days. In the 60's, students were sitting-in, protesting, and marching against such social ills. Citing "the squeaky wheel gets the grease", Ms. Reynolds asked, "Why are you so silent? The real war is right here at home... We have to wake up to politicians who are trying to turn us against each other with racial rhetoric and cold words."

In conclusion, Reynolds urged the audience to pursue their dreams, but be leary of "dreambusters" who come in the form of drugs, alcohol, pregnancy, other people, and even yourself. Reynolds then stated, "After you have reached your mountaintop and achieved your dreams, come back down to the valley to help those who are not as fortunate."

Cont. Pg. 6

Semi-Formal: It's Almost Here

By: Erin Keane & Nancy Costa

Pull out your charm, dust off your smile, and pucker up and hope they fall for the act. Because ladies and gentleman, there are now exactly fourteen days 'till the social event of the season. THE SPRING SEMI-FORMAL! And you poor souls thought you left all the anxiety of proms back in high school-- you were wrong! Let the countdown begin, the race is on!

Searching for a date is never fun. That's what we're here for. To preserve your sanity and give you some ideas. So take heed, buck up, and pay attention. There's not a minute to waste.

If you're lucky enough to have a girlfriend/boyfriend read no further. For those of you who aren't that lucky, here we go.

Going stag is always a popular option. Without the hassle of a date, you can choose from a multitude of dancing partners, not have to worry about being late, and not worry about purchasing flowers. Just make sure you attend with a bunch of stag folk. The more, the merrier.

For those who are hell-bent on finding a date; your first option is attend with a friend. Although the night probably won't be full of romance, you can still have a good time.

For those whose friends all have dates there's always-- Egads!- The relative option. If you plan to go with blood make sure it's someone you can trust. You don't want the story of how you stuck peas up your nose as a child to be brought up over dinner conversation.

Yet another option is to attend with the person who's been dying to go with you, but you'd rather die than go with. But what kind of an option is that? If you must, give it serious thought. You want this night to be memorable because you had fun, not because you had homicide on your mind the entire time.

We almost forgot. If are left with no other choice or none of these options work out, and you still really want to go, you could be escorted by a blind date. Be careful! Although your friends mean well, their idea of the perfect date just might not cut it.

We've done all that we can to ease the burden of the hectic marathon. So synchronize your watches! You now have thirteen days, twenty-three hours...