

# OPINION and REVIEW

## Editorial:

### Negative Patriotism Hurts!

by Jennifer Darr

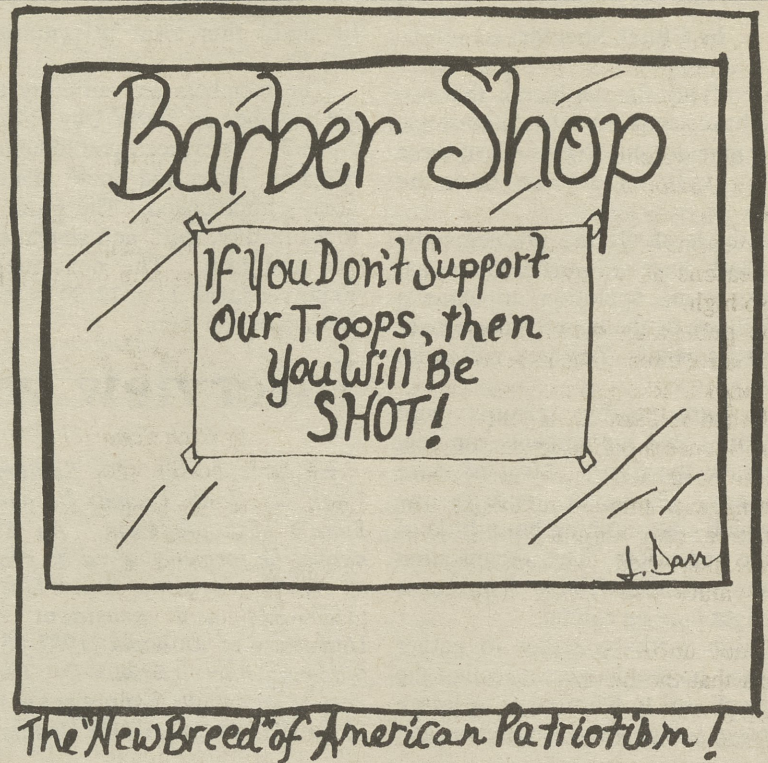
The war is in full swing now and most of us have decided if we're against it or for it. We're American and we have that right. Unfortunately, some people have become negatively patriotic. Unlike regular patriotism, negative patriotism is counterproductive. From it stems more racial and ethnic prejudice than existed before.

Around Christmas time last year (before the war even started) I was walking through the parking lot of the Springfield mall and two young men in a car almost hit a woman who was driving her car. It was obvious that the young man driving the car wasn't looking where he was going, but yet he felt the need to scream out his window "GO BACK TO IRAQ!!!" Just because the woman's skin was a little darker than his own.

A couple of weeks ago, I was driving home from school the way I usually take but something looked different this time. The bar that usually has something like "Monday Night Football, Free Food and Beer" on its sign out front had changed the message. The new message reads "NUKE EM". I wanted to pull into that bar and start screaming at the person who came up with that slogan. I could have gone on for hours about how nuclear weapons don't solve every problem in the world, and how innocent people and children would die horrible deaths if we just "nuked em". And how about the historical significance of Iraq? Don't forget the environment. A nuclear bomb would do wonders for our environment. Oh yes, and I wouldn't leave out the part about how if America fired a nuclear weapon there is a good chance that one just might get fired back at us. But, fortunately, my better judgement prevailed and I realized that it would do no good.

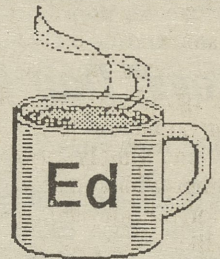
Some radio stations are even jumping on the bandwagon. Have you ever heard the "Open Letter to Saddam Hussein" on Q102? If you haven't, let me give you a couple quotes from it. First, they start out by emphasizing that America is a free country and how we are "the land of the free and the home of the brave". Then they go on to say, "So, Mr. Saddam, you better get out of Kuwait or we're gonna kick your Iraqi ass!" Who's going to kick Saddam's ass? Surely not the people who work at the radio station. Furthermore, it's not Saddam Hussein that is actually being hurt. It is the citizens of Iraq and the Iraqi military that our military is hurting. That broadcast, in my opinion, is something that is childish and it only gives narrow-minded people an excuse to behave the way they do. It amazes me that the General Manager or the Program Director at Q102 approved that piece of junk they call a broadcast.

Our country is supposed to be open to all people, no matter what their race or religion. But, unfortunately we have certain people that call themselves Americans when in actuality, they show no characteristics of what America is based on. At the beginning of World War II in the 1940's, in California, the Federal Government of the United States took Japanese-Americans out of their homes and put them in camps out of fear that they were spies. After stripping these Americans of their possessions, and yanking them out of their homes and jobs, the government just "let them go" when the war ended. Would the American people let that happen today? I wonder. Did the government consider that "patriotism" then? I think support is in order for the troops that are fighting over there now, but let's all try to remember that the purpose of this war is to liberate Kuwait, not to kill as many Iraqis as we can.



## THE FRONT DESK

by Ed Tomezsko  
Campus Executive Officer



by Ed Tomezsko

A few days ago, someone said to me, "Did you know that so-and-so wasn't a good student in high school?" I answered, "No, I didn't know that, but then high school doesn't make much difference in college." "Really?" someone responded. "Really!" said I.

In the book, and forgive the PC language error, *The Seasons of a Man's Life* by Daniel Levinson, you will find the idea the people have periods of their lives which are stable and which are transitional. The young adult transition usually shows up in your life about the age of eighteen and there are other transitions, spaced about every seven years, during which people find themselves changing personally, spiritually, and/or professionally. When I first read this, it really killed me to discover that I was so "predictable." We all like to believe that we are unique and, in a curious, way we are. We are predictably unique.

The Dean's List is published by all colleges and universities every semester to identify those students who have achieved academic excellence. I made the dean's list in the first semester of my freshman year and in the last semester of my senior year. I will not tell you on what lists I was in between.

The Dean's List is a benchmark of progress in the learning cycle. The Dean's List is a source of institutional pride because it is "our" students doing well. It is a source of personal pride because "I" am doing well. It means simply you are a good student. In Penn State's case, your semester grade point is between 3.50 and 4.00 - more A's than B's. You can read the list of these people for the fall semester on page two.

Here's the point, "so-and-so" is in this dean's list and "someone" is proud of that. During these life transitions, people change by sometimes changing environments. When you come from your high school, from your professional life, or from your personal life into a college, very few people know who you are, and in this new environment you are free to be someone completely different. You can take your strengths and your weaknesses and build them into something better. The purpose of the University is to help that unique you be better. Congratulations to "so-and-so" and to "someone", both on the list, and to all of the others on the Dean's List: Penn State's best.

## Letter to the Editor

Dr. King had a dream. David Clements Jr. quoted it perfectly in the February issue of the *Lion's Eye*: "... (King) had a vision that little black boys and girls would be able to join hands with little white boys and girls as sisters and brothers". I wish Dr. King were here. I wish I could ask him if the above quote excluded Black Student League meetings. Maybe Mr. Clements Jr. can answer that for me.

Early in January of this year, Chuck McCarthy and Rich Schaffer, both Penn State student government officials, attended a BSL meeting to see how they were progressing and to show support. (NOTE: Chuck McCarthy and Rich Schaffer are white). Instead of a welcome feeling, they felt quite out of place as Beverly Lindsey, faculty advisor of the BSL, asked them to leave.

She said that the BSL was not prepared to have them as "guests".

Look at that for a moment. Two key words: "prepared" and "guests". I thought that the BSL offered an open invitation to all people, regardless of race. What had to be "prepared"? Were they going to use different wording in the case that someone of another color were to attend?

In an interview with Chuck McCarthy, he said, "I do anything to help anyone of my fellow students out, no matter the situation, and when I don't have all the facts, then I can't give my best effort in lending a hand." He also felt that this was a stab in the back. He went to help out and instead was sent away minutes after he walked through the door.

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