

◆◆◆ Opinion ◆◆◆

America is a terrorist - An editorial

By ERIC MAYER
Staff writer

Editor's note: The opinions stated are not those held by the Lion's Eye and it's staff as a whole.

The measures taken by the United States' government in reaction to the terrorist activities of the past two months have been nationalistic and militaristic. The military strikes and other deployed forces against Afghanistan serve as a counterpoint to the enhanced patriotism and nationalistic justification purveyed by a large majority of governmental sources that defend such violent resolutions. Since these supposed resolutions began, several publications and authors have pointed out the philosophical discrepancies in the United States' government's actions, significant degrees of human and financial resources have been expended, and little to no progress has been made in stopping the threat of terrorism. By contrast, a peaceful reaction to terrorism is more philosophically consistent, less costly to human and financial resources, and more effective in its long-term remedial processes than the United States' currently nationalistic and militaristic procedures.

As defined by the United States' Army manual, terrorism is "the calculated use of violence or the threat of violence to attain political or religious ideological goals

through intimidation, coercion, or instilling fear." The United States' military attack against Afghanistan fits this definition more conclusively than the "terrorist" acts of September 11. In the United States' case, the political and ideological goals are far more clear and declared than the vague and assumed objectives of the plane hijackers. Such twisted logic and guesswork as this are no foundries for war.

It can be asserted by the several comments and claims by that of the Taliban and of other Middle-Eastern states that the primary motivation behind the September 11 attacks is anger towards the present "bullying" attitude of US foreign policy. Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia suggested that the US "re-examine its policies in the Middle East and adopt a more balanced stance towards the Palestinian cause" to resolve the terrorist threat.

True to form, the United States rebuked the Saudi prince and refused his monetary gift, describing his comments as "part of the problem" in the Middle East. However, as several remarks by noted psychologist Noam Chomsky defend, the Saudi prince is correct in stressing the severity of US foreign policy as a causal factor. An act as severe and wide reaching as Sept. 11 does not stem from blind hatred or ignorance, but rather a timed effort to drag down the "bully." If the United States continues to act towards other impoverished nations as it does now, the behavior will not stop. These "terrorist" actions may be

stemmed temporarily by military setbacks or the loss of a symbol (Osama Bin Laden), but the mindset that begets this behavior will stay the same.

This ultimatum brings with it an argument of casualties and expenditure. With each day of attacks in Afghanistan, far more civilians die than do terrorists. On the other side of the Atlantic, subversive counter-attacks with anthrax occur with more frequency and severity every day. Such a dramatic expenditure of human and monetary resources would lead one to expect that the result would be synchronous with the effort. However, this is not the case in our "war on terrorism" - few long-term changes will result from the attacks. The government seems to believe that a loss of human and military resources in opposing forces will destroy the ideological and political premises on which these resources act. History has shown this belief to be incorrect. For example: economic sanctions have not altered the tide of anti-American sentiment in Iraq; rather, they have strengthened it. Though the absence of a revered figurehead such as Saddam Hussein could curb such sentiments, it should be made clear that the destruction of a figurehead is only an option in a war against a country, not a war against subversion.

In the war against terrorism, Osama Bin Laden is our new Saddam.

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People Poll

Staff writer Meredith Becker asked Penn State Delco students:
If a photograph of one part of your body were to be used in an advertisement, which part would you want to be used and for what product or service?



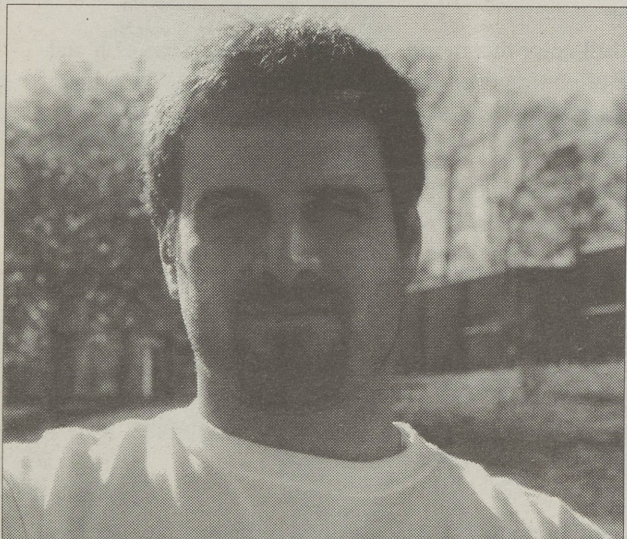
"My eyes for Lasik Eye surgery."
-Dave Park,
Soph. IST Major



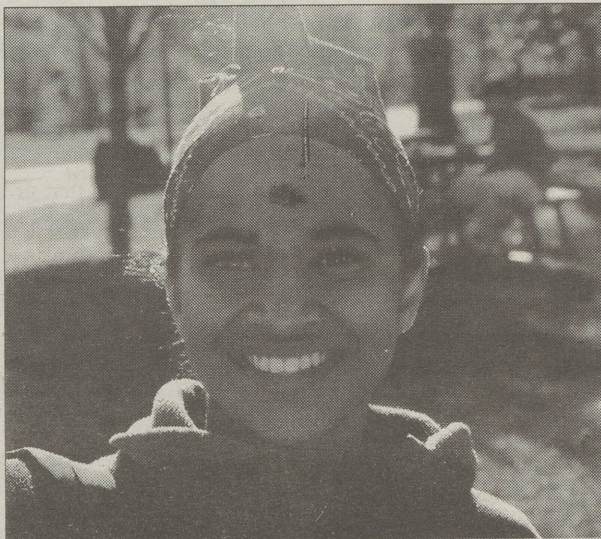
"My Hands for a Jewlery Ad."
-Alex Gehman
Soph. Comm. Major



"My "guns" for a body building gym."
-Thang Nguyen
Junior IST Major



"The entire package for an escort service."
- Mike Giordano
Junior IST Major



"My hair for Pantene Shampoo and conditioner."
-Ivena John
Junior IST Major



"MY face for skin care products, maybe Neutrogena..."
-Terry Samah
Soph. Nursing Major