

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Thursday, March 11

editorial opinion

FYI: New spot for opinions

Starting tomorrow, The Daily Collegian will break with tradition and move its opinion section from Pages 2 and 3.

This move does not relegate the opinion pages to a position of lower priority in the Collegian. It does, however, signify a desire to let our readers see the news first, formulate their own opinions and then read the Collegian's and other people's opinions.

From now on, the opinion pages will appear after the state/nation/world section in a one-section paper; in a two- or four-section paper, they will appear at the end of the first section.

In other words, the opinion pages will appear after the bulk of the news coverage. The placement of the pages will vary from day to day, depending on the size of the paper, but will usually be found somewhere between Page 6 and Page 12. An index on the front page will list where the pages are located.

Opinions in a newspaper perform many functions. They explain, they clarify, they promote dialogue about topics of community interest.

Those functions are often handled



reader opinion

To your health

As graduate students in the nutrition program, we feel obligated to correct certain unproven and misleading statements which appeared in the story "Eat Nutritious Foods," which appeared in The Daily Collegian on Feb. 9.

While we could not agree more with the thrust of the title, as well as the general suggestions that the public should decrease its sugar, salt, fat and cholesterol intake, errors in facts and the presence of unproven claims appearing as facts can not be overlooked.

The relationship between nutrition and immunity to infectious disease, particularly in a generally well-fed society such as ours, is unclear. Contrary to what was stated, there is surely little, if any, relationship between cholesterol intake and susceptibility to bacterial or viral disease. Still, because of its association with heart disease, the recommendation to avoid foods high in cholesterol is a good one. Similarly, excessive sugar consumption, unless it markedly depresses the intake of other foods, is unlikely to affect the immune system. Clearly, adequate intake of all nutrients is essential to good health. It is not clear that low intakes of vitamins A and C or the minerals iron and zinc are related to incidence of sore throat, mononucleosis, or any viral infection at all, nor is it likely that greater than normal intakes of these or any nutrients will afford greater protection against such disease. Also, it is questionable whether there is any particular advantage to consuming yogurt with "active" cultures, since these bacteria are unlikely to survive digestion and establish themselves in the intestine to any great extent.

The term "poison" to describe a candy bar or the effects of processed foods on the body is an unnecessarily sensational exaggeration. It is difficult to judge the value of any particular food (e.g. a candy bar) except in the context of the total diet. In other words, a candy bar could be incorporated into a balanced diet — particularly if the individual has high caloric needs — though the candy bar alone or a diet composed primarily of such foods would not be high in nutrient content.

While processed foods are often high in fat and refined sugar, and overconsumption of these have been associated with certain chronic diseases, processed foods in general can not be said to "poison" our systems. Furthermore, the suggestion that such foods are in any way difficult to utilize or eliminate is wholly unfounded, as is the statement that fatty

and sugary foods in some way compromise liver detoxification capabilities.

While many of the facts in this column were not accurate, we agree with its basic recommendations. That is, Americans — especially young Americans — would indeed benefit from moderation in consumption of fats, refined sugars and calories, and could achieve this by increasing consumption of whole and enriched grains, legumes, and fruits and vegetables.

Nutrition misinformation is a widespread problem in lay publications. We hope that in the future, the Collegian will verify the expertise of its sources in nutrition and other sciences.

David Jason Mels
Richard Rothman
Leeann Simons
Graduate students-nutrition science
Feb. 12

Good job!

I would like to thank The Daily Collegian for a fine effort in covering minority issues this year. I, like many other blacks at the University, found it nice to see that we also do things which are considered newsworthy. It was different to open the Collegian and find out about black student leaders, issues, organizations and events.

During her campaign for Collegian editor, Paula Froke promised to provide better minority coverage. She did just that. For years we have been fighting to increase minority enrollment at Penn State. It was nice to see the Collegian actually do this. The Collegian not only communicated the need for better recruitment to a majority of students, but also the reasons it is needed.

Besides recruitment, the Collegian followed many minority-sponsored events. Brotherhood Day, the Miss Black Penn State Contest, Minority Affairs' fashion show, Martin Luther King memorial activities, minority forums, the Black Arts Festival, minority speakers and the creation of the Black Faculty Task Force, to name a few.

The op-ed section on minority recruitment and retention was an excellent opportunity for many students to share their views on minority enrollment. It opened discussion and created more communications between minority and white students, which is something we can never get enough of.

For years, many students didn't know who the black student leaders or organizations at the University were. This year, the Collegian shed some light on that subject. The Black Caucus, the East Halls Black Student Union and Minority Affairs (along with others) received a lot more attention than in the past. This year I think a greater percentage of the population actually know the names of some of the black student leaders. These black student leaders are helping the general student population, too, and their efforts should be recognized.

Thank you, Paula Froke, and the whole Collegian staff for attempting to bring fair coverage of minority concerns. I hope the new editor and staff continue this policy. Coverage of minority issues may bring about better communications and understanding between the races, which may in turn facilitate BROTHERHOOD.

Darryl Daisey, East Halls Black Student Union
USG Senator
Feb. 20

Fairy tales?

First, I want to say "Thank you" to the Collegian for giving us people out in the student population a chance to voice our views.

Second, I want to say, "Good job!" to all the students who are taking advantage of this opportunity. Maybe students are not as apathetic as everyone thinks. I know I enjoy hearing all sides to an issue. Thank God that we live in a free country.

Third, I'd like to present a reply to Donald Simanek's letter published in the Feb. 11 edition. I suppose that being a Christian, I qualify as "witless for Christ" and as a believer in fairy tales who supports irrational philosophies.

I'll begin by addressing the last part of his description — the philosophy bit. The "philosophy" of Christianity is a common misconception. Christianity is not a philosophy, it is a way of life — just as Judaism was for the Old Testament Jews (and many of those today).

Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the LIFE. If any man would have eternal life he must take up his cross and follow me." Since it would be difficult to prove that Jesus was irrational, those that follow in His footsteps can hardly be given such a label.

That is not to say that all who call themselves Christian are always right. After all, the reason the religious leaders feared Jesus is because he challenged their security. His words spoke, and still speak, to the heart of the people and their problems. He brought comfort and love, which a philosophy cannot give. Also, when the leaders tried to trip him up and trick him, he answered them with questions which they could not answer. And, I think it was Plato who said that wisdom is the ability to ask questions.

As for the fairy tale part, I truly doubt that all the miracles recorded in the New Testament are fiction or mere coincidence. God did heal the sick and the blind and he still does today. When a person walks with Christ, God is free to work through him, and that person will also witness miracles. I don't think the Christians in those days were any more special than we are. They were just more willing to live Christ — not merely "believe in" Christ.

As for being "witless," it is Christ who gives me the desire to analyze claims made by people in all areas of life. If it were up to me, I would rather have lived my life under a blanket, not paying attention to things which did not touch my life directly. Now, I don't want to miss any truths, particularly on the spiritual level. In that area, not all statements made by humans reflect the truth. The Bible itself encourages us to test all such claims so that we are not led astray.

Finally, about absolute truth, I can only repeat Jesus's words — "I am the Truth." For me, there can only be one truth, not a multitude of truths. If a person is not with the truth, then he is against it and is being foolish.

I can only say that Donald's opinion is not new. The Bible says that many will prefer the wisdom of this world, being blind to the knowledge of the truth. The only remedy for that is to search the heart as well as the mind for they always work together, no matter how "rational" we try to be.

Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the LIFE. If any man would have eternal life he must take up his cross and follow me."

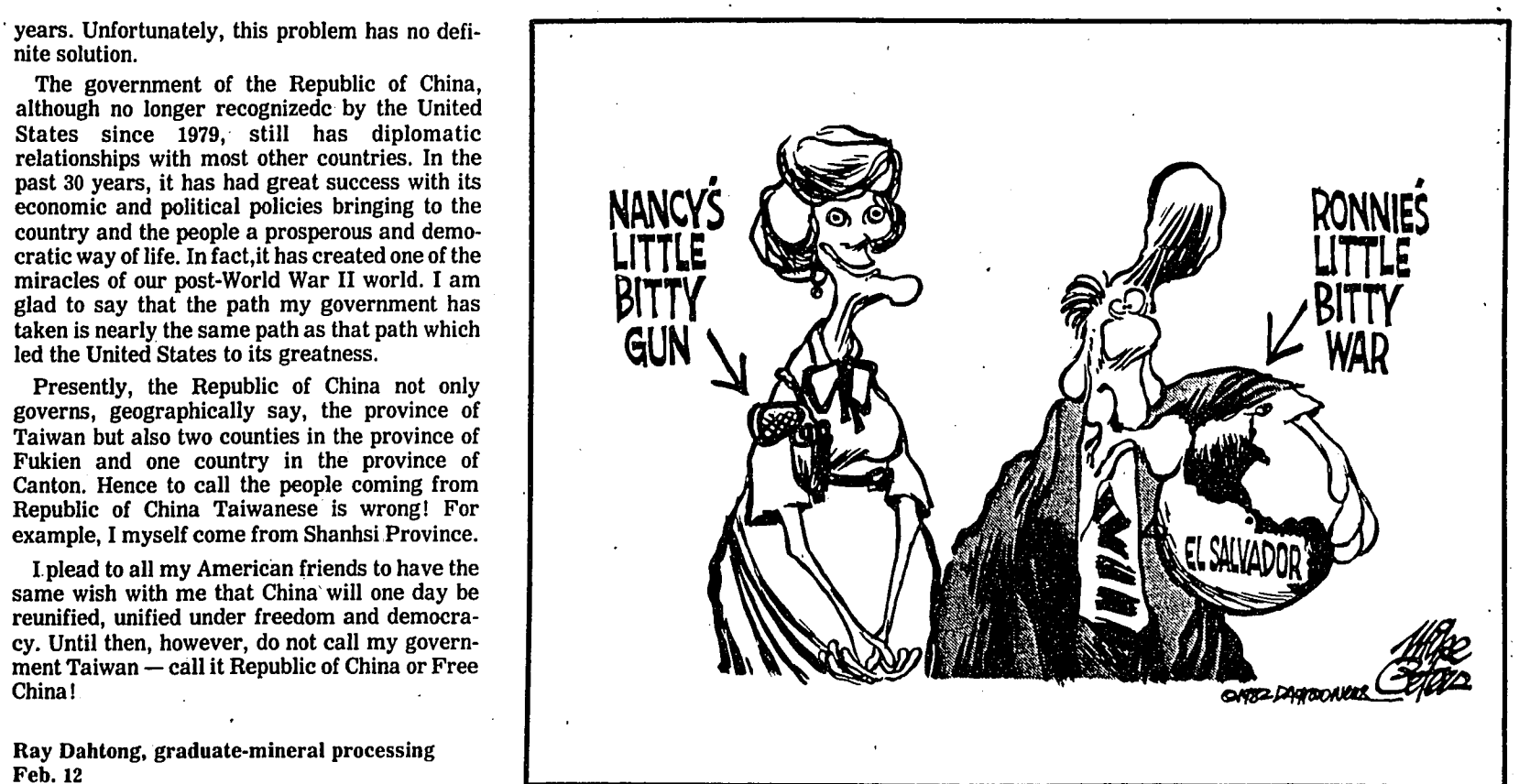
reader opinion

Up in arms

Recently in one of my classes I had the opportunity to hear two colonels speak on the social role of the war college in Carlisle, Pa. The title "war college" seemed a bit forbidding, but I settled back in my chair, intent on listening to what I could from the presentation. My first impression was that the officers felt out of place and uncomfortable, as well they might, in front of a class labeled social stratification. Their Army coats and caps, decorated with stripes and bars, were in strong contrast to the blue jeans and sneakers of their audience.

Throughout the course of their discussion, I felt the officers saying: "We are just like you, only we have to wear uniforms and decorations as part of our jobs." I think they were acting as good public relations men in an era when the military doesn't enjoy the esteem it once did. Nowadays, college students resent huge defense expenditures and fear being dragged into unwanted wars. Still, as military advocates, I think they did a good job.

The two colonels were good proponents for the Army because they were able to support conservative military policy without appearing like war mongers or hawk. One officer said: "We (officers) are the last ones to want war because we will be the first to get hit." I don't doubt that he was absolutely genuine but when he was



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Striving to find better answers to 'Why?'

Why? A simple word. Yet a word that is not used enough at Penn State. Often students, faculty members, administrators and The Daily Collegian do not question why.

The other buzz words of journalism — who, what, where, when and how — are used often enough, but why seldom is.

A tough question that involves a tough answer. The answer often involves more research, more understanding, more interviews — more time. And in the rush to finish a job, the answer to why is often shuffled aside for a later date.

national level and how they relate to the University.

Why? Penn State is rapidly approaching a critical period.

A new president will lead a University struggling to adapt to a new calendar system, fighting with increased costs and decreased revenue, and groping to plan while experts disagree about the size of future enrollments.

Decisions made during this period are going to affect how this University perceives itself and how others perceive it in the coming decade. What will Penn State look like in the 1980s and 1990s? Why will it be that way?

The problems facing the University are similar to those facing other institutions of higher education.

Seemingly unquestionable institutions in higher education are coming under question across the country. Some of the problems of other universities will eventually reach Penn State — if they haven't already.

For example, Temple University recently started to consider the dismissal of tenured faculty — the people that assumed their futures were secure. Decreasing enrollment and increasing costs have shattered that notion and Marvin Wachman, Temple's president, announced \$2.3 million in cuts and the dismissal of tenured faculty in all of Temple's departments except one — engineering technology. A Temple vice president said the cuts may mean the dismissal of hundreds of faculty members.

Penn State hasn't reached that point yet, but the career market is quickly putting a damper on a liberal arts education. Many of Penn State's humanities departments are over-staffed, while certain business, science and engineering departments are desperate for faculty.

The Collegian can't solve these problems; however, we can try to fully explain them and put them in perspective for the University.

Other unmentionables of higher education are also being reviewed.

Graduate schools are also faced with increasing problems including rising costs, decreasing research and financial aid funds and a nationwide decrease of 1.1 percent in enrollment.

President Reagan's proposals for financial aid are making many students question their ability to attend school — some may be forced to drop out as early as next year if Reagan's proposals pass Congress. At Penn State about 80 percent would be affected by his plans.

The list of problems for higher education is endless. With its resources, the Collegian will try to examine these issues and explain the whys, hows and whys to our readers.

There are also other less tangible questions and problems that face the University community. These questions also involve a lack of questioning, a lack of asking why.

One example is the discussion about the "Life of the Mind at Penn State" — a discussion that involves the way the University sees its own science major and editor of The Daily Collegian.

the daily Collegian

Thursday March 11, 1982

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Letters Policy: The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, signed by no more than two people and not longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the term, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter.

The Collegian reserves the right to "edit" letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. Because of the numbers of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all the letters it receives.

Mail letters to: The Daily Collegian, 126 Carnegie Building, University Park, Pa. 16802. Names may be withheld on request. Letters may also be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian.