

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Wednesday, Dec. 15

editorial opinion

A right that's not for sale

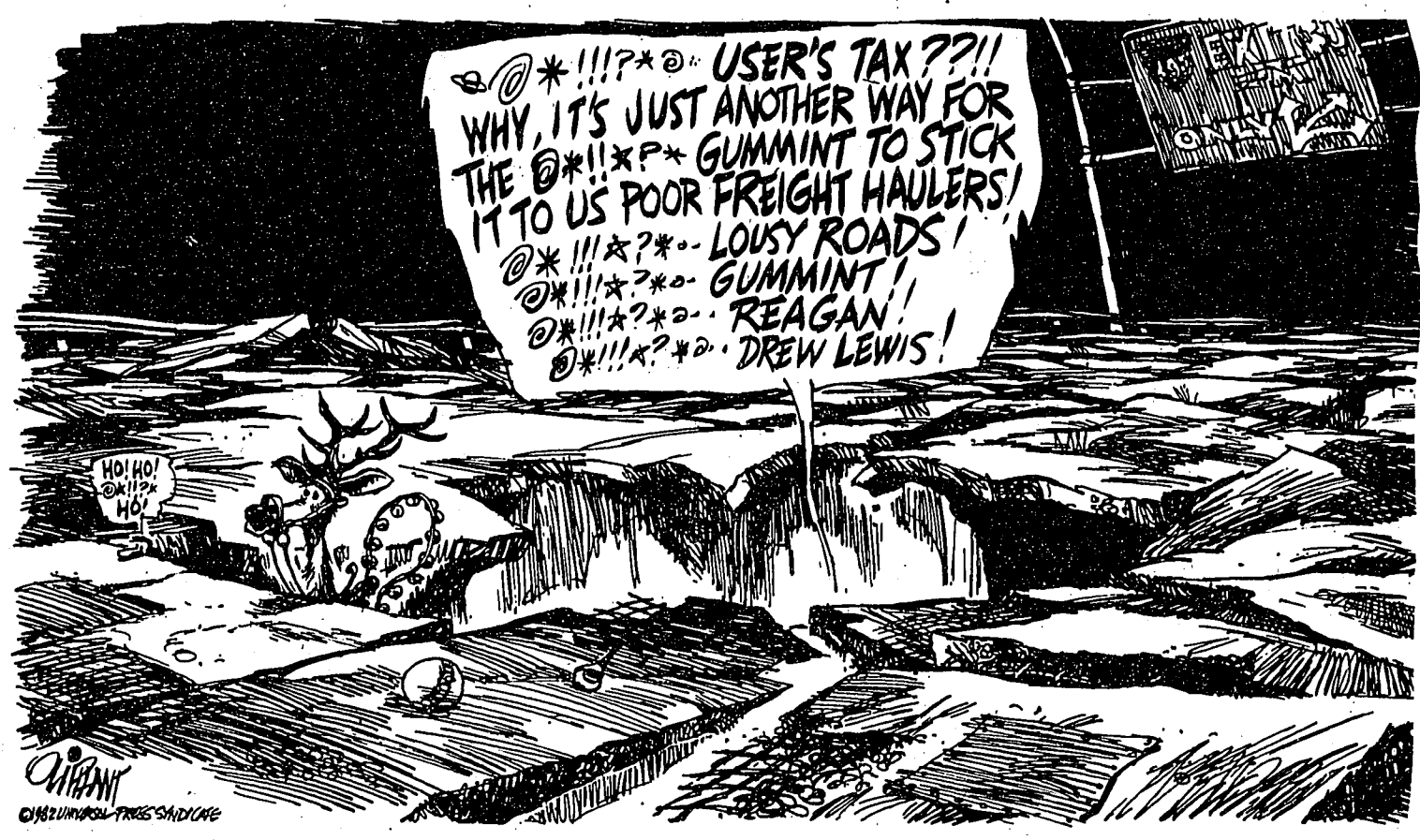
The language of the First Amendment is very simple. But the controversies that swirl around it are not.

In a preliminary hearing last week, American Future Systems — a corporation that sells cookware and other items — challenged a University policy prohibiting demonstrations of products to groups in residence halls.

The company claims the policy violates its First Amendment freedom of speech, while the University — seeking to protect students' wish for privacy — contends that the majority of students do not want outside commercial interests in the residence halls.

While corporations are defined as "people" and therefore are afforded the same First Amendment protections as individuals, those protections are not absolute. The freedoms of one individual or group cannot be so broad that they significantly infringe on another's rights.

If allowed to conduct demonstra-



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reader opinion

Drawing blood

What's the difference between the Red Cross and Count Dracula? No, this is not a joke. It's a serious question I'd say (among others) that the main difference is that the Red Cross draws blood from willing donors in small enough quantities to keep the donor healthy, while Dracula gorges himself on blood making the rather unwilling donor weaker with each passing feast.

What's the point? I'll answer this with another question: Which do you believe best represents the federal government, the Red Cross or Dracula? Seeing how Tip O'Neill, Ted Kennedy, et. al. from the party of high taxes, inflation, regulation and, oh yes, compassion, are filling their fangs right now may provide you with the answer.

Do these folks really believe that taxing the most anemic profits in recent memory will somehow enable business to make more profits? Do they feel lower profits will help unemployment? Then they point to the deficit. I must remind them, however, that the way they're using to dole out the ragging deficit is running dry.

I feel that the only meaningful way to shore up the deficit is to concentrate on economic growth. Healthy business profits and employed workers are essential to order for the government to reap healthy revenues. Employing people through the "make work" programs only eats up more tax revenues, helps very few of the unemployed, and only postpones the problem. Once that appropria-

tion is gone, so are the jobs, and where does the money come from for more appropriations? Back to the well!

How can we provide for a healthy business climate? First, we can lower business (and our) taxes. Keeping the patient in a perpetual state of anemia is not going to give you much blood. But wasn't this already tried? What about those huge tax cuts? Unfortunately all these cuts were more than offset by bracket creep due to inflation and climbing Social Security taxes. Very few Americans, the ones with upper incomes, actually got a lower tax burden in real terms. They just haven't "felt" this supply-side incentive. Reagan gave only a few of what he promised us all, and is suffering the obvious political consequences.

Cutting back on regulation would also help. We've spent billions of dollars on implementing millions of new laws, but is our society that much better, if at all? The cost has clearly outweighed the benefits. Government has forced business to spend billions to comply with regulations, yet business must account for many of these expenditures by raising investments. This may help explain why, despite for inflation, business profits have been falling while real investments have risen.

We want government to deal with the problems that the market can't solve, but we want it also to realize that dealing with these problems is going to affect the market.

Does cutting spending help? More spending certainly causes inflation, but it doesn't do much good to cut spending at a time when some social programs (unemployment, welfare) are needed the most.

Most people on government assistance don't need the "spirit of poverty" to get to work now, so why cut back? If we're going to cut back, do it at a time of prosperity when people don't have an excuse for not having a job! Although this increases the deficit, as does any spending bill, it at least helps ALL of the unemployed. Even though I said some nasty things about the Democrats earlier, the Republicans are no friend to the unemployed.

If our strategy in attacking the deficit, as does any spending bill, it at least helps ALL of the unemployed. Even though I said some nasty things about the Democrats earlier, the Republicans are no friend to the unemployed.

Government is still wasting money by separating those who demand the goods from our economy from those who pay for them which drives up things like health care costs.

Supply-side policies have proven themselves before with the Mellon tax cuts, the Kennedy cuts and numerous examples in states and from overseas. We have all been painfully made aware that simply a tax cut is not the magic wand that turns Dracula into a Red Cross volunteer and that it's not going to do this overnight. The tax cuts must be applied to us all in real terms. Indexing the tax brackets would help, and so would cuts in the Social Security tax.

If we are to support the elderly, the environment, defense, the needy, or whatever other cause, we have to keep the "life-blood" do-

Input, input

Where do you fit in the MX missile debate? Do you think we should spend more on a weapon we don't need, or do you think we need to catch up to the Soviet Union military? Or should we work at eliminating war altogether?

Let us hear your opinions on one of the most crucial issues of our decade. On Tuesday, Dec. 21, The Daily Collegian will devote its Op-ed page to the MX missile question. Submit letters (two-pages typed) and forums (three-to-four pages typed) to the editorial editors, 126 Carnegie, no later than Dec. 17.

Expert answers to common financial questions

By ROBERT A. STRONG
Finance lecturer

Editor's note: Robert A. Strong, a finance lecturer for the College of Business Administration, fields all sorts of questions from his students during class. Below are some of the standard inquiries he receives from students and his answers. Strong will be writing a bi-weekly financial column to help students in their personal investments.

Question: My landlady is 93, and her health is getting progressively worse. What are my rights as a renter if she dies?

Answer: It is unlikely that your landlady's death will have any consequences for you. The technical aspects of your rental agreement will continue for the term of the lease, with your rent payments going to the woman's estate. You may find, however, that your "new landlord" has different attitudes towards certain things outside the lease, such as loud music, parking, etc.

Question: How do consumers go about reporting mail order fraud?

Answer: The Postal Inspection Service is responsible for investigating violations of the Mail Fraud Statute. If you feel that you have been a victim of unscrupulous advertising or want to investigate a questionable work-at-home operation, send the details of your concern to:

Chief Postal Inspector
Consumer Protection Program
Washington, D.C. 20269

Forms requiring no postage are available for this purpose at many post offices.

Question: For a young investor such as a college student, would you recommend a mutual fund investment or investment in a specific stock? Why?

Answer: Mutual funds have many advantages for the small investor. The most important of these are probably the automatic diversification, the ability to invest small amounts (a few funds have no minimum investment), and the absence of com-

mission charges with no-load funds. By carefully selecting a fund, you can match its safety and potential return with your desires. A useful free directory is available from the No-Load Mutual Fund Association, Valley Forge, Pa. 1940.

Question: What are some stocks that remain relatively stable throughout the fluctuations of Wall Street and also offer fairly high dividends?

Answer: Stocks with these characteristics are called defensive stocks, meaning that their fortunes are largely independent of the business cycle. Included in this group are the public utilities (American Telegraph and Telephone, Allegheny Power, Pennsylvania Power and Light), retail food chains (Weis Markets), tobacco firms (R.J. Reynolds), and brewers/distillers (National Distillers). In general, the highest dividends will come from the utilities and the other groups will offer more potential growth.

Question: When drawing up a will, how do you go about it and at what age or under what circumstances should it be done?

Answer: A statistic I find unforgetable is the fact that 70 percent of the Americans who die each year do not have a will. If you have a will, you are said to have died intestate, and your state's laws of intestacy will write your will for you. In Pennsylvania, a single person dying intestate has his property written as follows:

1) Child or children receive all divided equally. (Grandchildren take their deceased parents' share.)

2) If you leave no children, your mother and father each receive half. If only one parent survives, the parent receives all.

3) If you leave no parents or children, your brothers and sisters receive all divided equally.

Only in the case where no relative survives you does your estate become the property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Question: I've heard that full-time college students can claim "0" on their W-2 form when they work during the summer. If so,

reader opinion

Tunnel vision

As a non-Christian, I am offended at some so-called Christian men's clear attempt (in their Dec. 13 letter to The Daily Collegian) to impose their version of heterosexism on all human beings — of course, in the name of god-in-man's image. Their particular version of "what the Bible says" sounds like other tunnel-visioned versions which reduce all of human diversity is reduced to their single one-size-fits-all standard.

While religious studies at most institutions of "higher education" tend to concentrate on monolithic monotheism, there is persuasive evidence (not often found in or by patriarchal scholarship) that the world has not always

lived the way of the male-creator-god. But, all of history is arguable — especially when one keeps in mind that history (and the Bible) is/was written by men who considered only their male viewpoint.

Human beings is, thank something, not all as monolithic/monodimensional as these fellows would have us "consent" to be. Some "Christians" — as we have seen (in the Dec. 13 letter) — seem a bit preoccupied with heterosexuality and will not consider alternative ways of being. Their transcendent (and male) god-concept hardly absolves men of all responsibility to other human beings or to the environment in which we live.

So-called transcendent absolutes will legitimize and justify exploitation and degradation of the planet's people — all in the name of the

transcendent which happens to mirror the men in power. Men's particular version of god supports and socially constructs their mythical male supremacy and male dominance which decreases — and dooms — all to heterosexism and reproduction ad-infinitum.

Jan S. Guertler, master's-religious studies
Dec. 13

Remember Jesus

The Christmas season is no doubt a special time of year. I enjoy looking for a Christmas tree, shopping for gifts, decorating with lights and tinsel, and one of my favorite parts of Christmas is giving gifts. (Although I'm always open for receiving gifts as well — a hint to all of my friends.)

I wonder, though, as people rush here and there, buying and giving gifts, and as people fret because they don't have enough money to buy the things they would like to, I wonder — do they remember why we celebrate?

About 2,000 years ago a child was born to all of mankind. That child grew up, touching many lives in a special way, and at the prime of his life, He died on a cross on Calvary. That child born to all of mankind was Jesus Christ, God's son.

The reason He was born? To die for us. For the "Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female." Galatians 3:28. Jesus Christ came into this world to save mankind from sin. He was born for us as Catholics, for the Protestants, the Athiests, the Hare Krishnas, the Mormons, the Palestinians and the Arabs. He

was born for the Russians and the Chinese, for the Moslem and Buddhists — for all of mankind.

We don't celebrate Christmas because of Santa Claus and reindeer, although their presence is enjoyed, but because of Jesus Christ. What He asks is that we believe in Him and do the things He says.

"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost." Matthew 18:11

I hope all of you have a fantastic holiday season and enjoy the time spent with family and friends. And sometime during your celebrations, take time to say thanks for a man who paid a debt that wasn't his. Remember, Jesus, the reason for the season.

Dave Goodwin (8th-instructor)
Dec. 13

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OLDIES WITH LARRY MOORE
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John Gosch
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS YOUNG MAN?
John Gosch disappeared Sunday, Sept. 5, while delivering newspapers in West Des Moines, Iowa. He is 12 years old, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs 140 pounds and has blue eyes and light brown hair. Rewards totaling more than \$30,000 are being offered by the Des Moines Register and friends and business associates of the family. If you have any information, contact Child Find, 1-800-431-5005, or the West Des Moines, Iowa, Police 515-223-3211.

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