

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Monday, July 30, 1984

editorial opinion Olympics and ideologies

Despite the threat of heavy smog, as intrinsic to Los Angeles as snow to the Yukon, the spirit of Olympic competition is strong. Strong too, are the acrid fumes of ideological conflict hanging over the city. Unlike the smog, the political fumes are not intrinsic to any particular place but rather, it seems, to large gatherings of international athletes.

But while politics and ideology permeate every aspect of mankind, they are considered pollutants only once every four years. They are harmful only to the Olympic games. The Rumanian athletes, who were given a standing ovation during the opening ceremonies, are thought of as having overcome the temptation to "use" the Olympics as cheap political fodder; as having the will to resist the authoritarian and repressive Soviet leadership; as holding international cooperation through athletic competition higher than the petty, selfish goals of political conflict.

Is that why we applauded the Rumanians? Or is the reason because we consider the Rumanian's participation a victory in the East-West conflict? Would the games seem less politically motivated or would there be more international cooperation if the Communist bloc nations were participating?

Of course there are two answers to each of those questions. One we give inwardly. That one comes from our collective gut; the kind of answer we gave when Luke Skywalker destroyed the Empire's Death Star. The other answer is the one we give to social scientists. The answer that fits our idea of what the value of athletic competition should be: its not whether you win or lose... That's what we tell our children, when they lose.

What did we tell our children when, during the 1980 Winter games, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated their Soviet opponents? Was the reaction one of national pride or was it a victory over the evil empire?

Politics are as intrinsic to the Olympics as smog is to Los Angeles. This is so because the world is divided ideologically and such because it is human nature that makes us want to be affiliated with distinct groups. In this era of civilization, humans have invented two conflicting ideologies and have taken sides. May the best one win.

the Collegian
Monday, July 30, 1984
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Brian E. Bowers, Kathy Connolly
Editor Business Manager

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reader opinion

Logical fallacy

I found the point of your July 19 editorial, "Arms control worth waiting" extremely difficult to locate. Whatever the stand you attempted to take, the editorial was replete with technical misinformation and logical fallacy.

You state that due to, "advances in missile accuracy and mobility of launch platforms, on-site verification is a must. The Soviet Union has never allowed this." True on both counts. However, deployment of the Cruise Missile by the U.S. makes verification of some treaties virtually impossible, even with on-site inspection, something the U.S. has never allowed either. Would we sign an arms control treaty that we could not verify?

Further, your editorial claims that joint U.S./Soviet development of anti-ballistic missile systems (ABM) is necessary because "nuclear destruction will be spared the government that strikes first." Perhaps a first-striking GOVERNMENT will be spared but certainly not its people. To believe this assumes we could launch a preemptive first strike, which would destroy the Soviet strategic arsenal of over 10,000 nuclear warheads. They would be required to hit over 13,000. We possess submarines which could destroy the USSR 3 months after the entire American continent had been destroyed. And this speaks nothing of nuclear winter.

The ABM Treaty, which was signed by Nixon, and which your suggestion would violate, was ratified only because it had no substance. ABM systems were and are today technically infeasible according to most knowledgeable personnel.

By speaking of the possibility of surviving nuclear war via preemptive first strike you are grossly misguiding the public. Check the facts first.

You mention Ronald Reagan's sudden enthusiasm toward arms negotiations with the Soviets. Would you not be providing more of a service to your readers by pointing out the fact that Ronald Reagan has blatantly spurned any notion of arms control for three-and-a-half years. Is the upcoming election and his new found role as peace-maker mere coincidence or is it editorial material?

In a July 24 editorial you criticize Jesse Jackson for overstepping his legal bounds by interfering in our foreign policy with the Soviets and creating a "potentially explosive intrusion into Soviet internal affairs." Technically, Jackson's action may be illegal. But that action pales by comparison to the crimes against humanity that

are Ronald Reagan's foreign policy and military policies. Let's get cogent, Collegian. At least relevant.

Timothy Bowers, State College
July 26

Carelessness

We are writing to point out how careless journalism sometimes can lead to amazing and humorous mistakes. It also illustrates why so many of us are hesitant to be interviewed by members of the press.

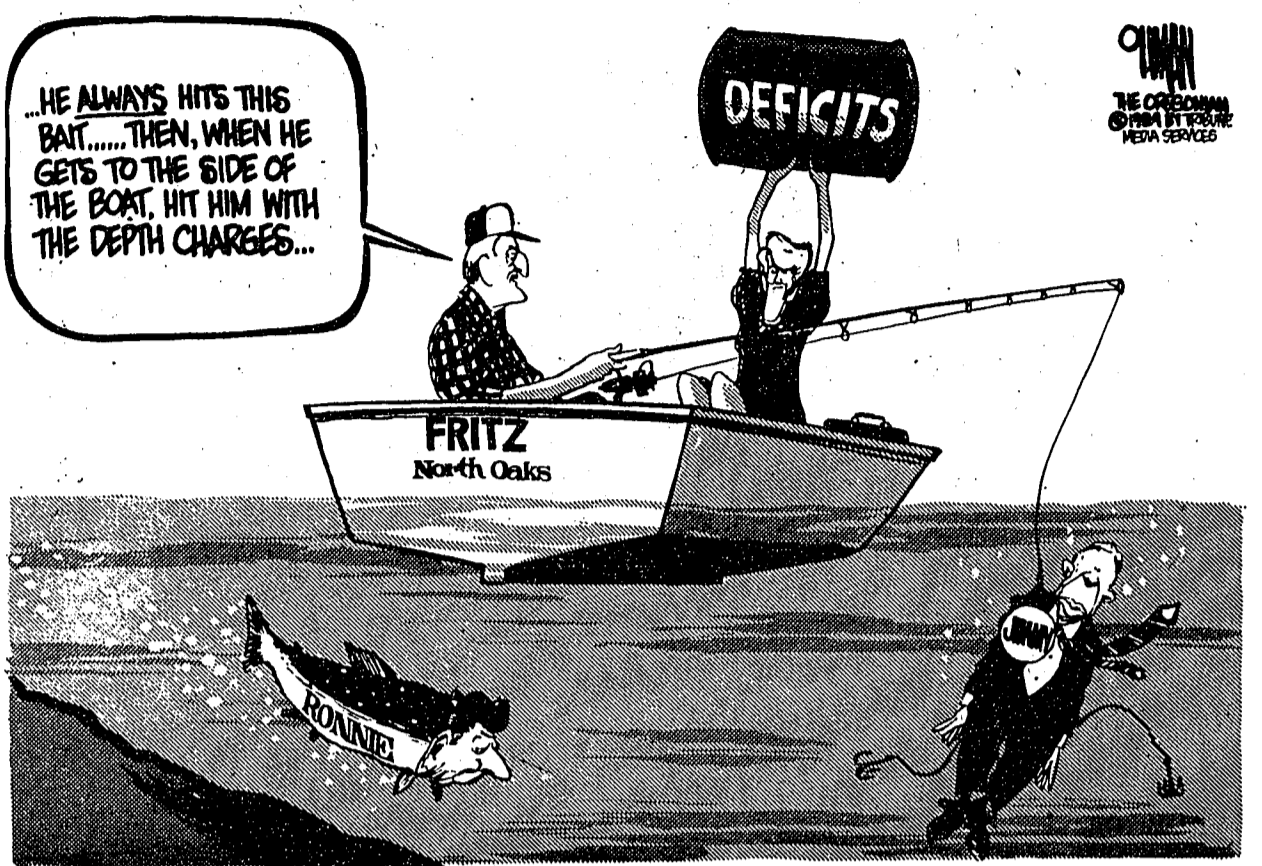
On July 16, Collegian Staff Writer Bruce L. Cary phoned Professor Michael R. King to ask if he would agree to be interviewed about the implications of having a woman on the presidential ticket. Professor King declined, and referred Mr. Cary to Professor Robert E. O'Connor, who was then interviewed by Mr. Cary. On July 17, an article appeared in the Collegian about the Mondale-Ferraro ticket in which Professor King was quoted extensively. Professor O'Connor was not mentioned.

When Professor King read the Collegian on the morning of the 17th, he was astounded to find that he was quoted in the Collegian article. He first thought he was suffering from temporary amnesia or terminal absent-mindedness, because he couldn't recall being interviewed. When Professor O'Connor read the article, he was amazed at how closely Professor King's views agreed with his own, even down to the words he would have used to answer the reporter's questions.

As you have probably guessed by now, the Collegian reporter apparently thought he was interviewing Professor O'Connor, when he was actually interviewing Professor King. Mr. Cary's carelessness in verifying his sources has not only caused us considerable trouble, but has shown us an otherwise obscure college newspaper can gain a reputation for sloppy journalism.

Although the Collegian has printed a correction, corrections are seldom read. Therefore we would like to take this opportunity to state that the views attributed to Professor King in the article are actually those of Professor O'Connor, and not necessarily those of Professor King, who was never interviewed.

Michael R. King
Robert E. O'Connor
associate professors of political science
July 29



A 'link' to a fantasy world

Are there times when you just aren't sure how to approach something? Times when you are presented with conflicting mores that don't seem resolvable? I spend a lot of time pondering such things, but I've discovered something that can help. Not a thing, really, but a place. It's something of a fantasy world, and all you have to do to visit is concentrate with me. In this world, all is not as it appears at first.



Karl Washburn

There is one advantage, though: It gives you an invaluable opportunity to compare objectively with your own real world. Let's first see what is happening over there today. Just concentrate, and peer through those mysterious windows that will appear. Ready? Look!

M1: Hey, gang, what's up?
M2: Yes. Did you just talk about M1.
M3: Yes. Did you see M1 yesterday at the office? At it again with M4.
M4: Come again?
M2: They were goofing around, looking funny at each other and...
M3: And touching.
M4: Looking funny? Touching?
M2: You know how it goes. M1 comes in joking and being foolish, and pretty soon hands end up on someone. M1 makes like it's a joke, but I'm not so sure.
M3: Yeah, you've seen it. M1 comes in, shaking hands, patting backs, puts a hand on someone's shoulder, even hugs people, or worse. Yeah.
M2: Something is definitely fishy about M1.
M3: Has M1 done any of this to you?
M2: Me? No, but we don't know each other very well anyway.
M3: Just more fuel for the fire. M1 only seems to do it with other M's. To be honest, I think M1 is an H.
M4: Whoa, now hold on there. Them's mighty stiff words, considering the evidence.
M2: Evidence? M1 is forever doing that stuff, every time he comes over here. I mean, we don't see much of M1 outside of here, but now I think I know why, if you get my drift.
M4: I'm sure I don't want to. Just because one M touches another, that doesn't imply either is an H. And so what if an M is an H? Has M1 done any of this with you?
M2: M1 stays clear of me, thanks.
M3: It makes my skin crawl. I think M3 is right. M1 shows all the signs: I know an H when I see one.
M2: Is that so? And just what might those signs be?
M3: You know. The touching, the leering looks, the jokes. M1 is sort of emotional, too. You can just tell.
M4: This physical part bothers both of you. But handshakes, pats on the back? In some realms, that's a part of daily life for an M.

M3: Sure, and look where it gets them. It's not all right over here, at least not by me. It's just plain un-M-I.

W2: Things certainly are confusing enough as it is these days, without all this other stuff on top of it. I like things plain and simple. Call me old-fashioned, if you like.

M6: Well, haven't you ever hugged or kissed another W, W2?

W2: Sure, but it's usually OK for other W's. Besides, it was always a W that was related to me or very special to me.

M6: Bullseye! Doesn't that imply that there are motivations for physical contact that are not sexually oriented?

W2: Sure! If I love someone or care about that person, then we can touch.

M3: But you're a W. That's OK. Part of being an M is being strong about not doing that sort of thing.

M8: Like eating quiche.

M3: Come on. I'm not talking about all that crap. You eat what you eat. Don't get stupid on me.

M5: What about the end zone after the winning play? I've seen an awful lot of risque tush-squeezing and general grabbing.

W2: There's no question there. It's a team effort. It's of intense emotion, all at once. Those M's are really tough, and they are expressing that, in a way.

M3: Control, that's what it's all about. An M should be able to hold in all the little things. Out on that field, it's all real hearty. If one of those players was called an H, you can bet a good pounding would ensue.

M6: But if an M isn't inclined (or tough enough) to do that pounding, it's all right to judge? Hammm. Let's go back to the issue of emotions. W2, you mentioned that M1 shows a lot of emotion. But you also equated the touchdown with an emotional experience.

W2: How can explain it more clearly? It's just different. To me, anyway.

M6: So where do you draw the line? Where does the expression of emotion or empathy or sensitivity cease to be acceptable?

M3: I'm so sick of that "sensitivity" garbage.

M6: When does a hug cease to be an expression of goodwill, and become something perverse? And what about just joking around?

W2: It's just a matter of degree, that's all. I guess you see it or you don't.

M6: Well I guess I don't. Frankly, it seems sort of healthy to me.

M3: Listen to the psychotherapist. Well, M1 can emote and empathize and sensitize 'til the cows come home, as long as he stays away from me.

M6: Something tells me he will.

POP

Oops. Looks like we lost the "link." No matter. I've had my fill of that for now anyway.

A footnote, though. The last time I saw that group, I was sure I heard something about "M1" being in some sort of "contract" with some "W." It had to do with spending their lives together. I certainly haven't figured this all out. If I do, I'll let you know.

In the meantime, back to the real world. It somehow seems a little clearer to me, now.

Karl Washburn is a graduate student in the Acoustics Program and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Economic data prove Reagan's recovery still going strong

Recently released economic data were found to be unwelcomed by the markets — at least in the beginning of last week. Indeed, the continuing stock market slump increased fears of rising inflation and rising interest rates.

rapidly decreasing unemployment is the chance of inflation igniting much sooner. You see, there's a short-run relationship between unemployment and inflation that makes rapid decreases in unemployment foreshadow rapid increases in inflation.

As consumer demand increases in a recovery, business inventories are run down. At first, businesses pay overtime to begin rebuilding inventories until they are certain the increased demand is permanent. After realizing demand has permanently increased, firms hire more workers, pushing up wages — thus prices. Wages, of course, depend upon the future rate of inflation.

Inflation, however, is running at an amazingly low level — 3.2 percent. And gross national product is growing at its highest levels since right after World War II — 10.1 percent in the first quarter and 7.5 percent in the second quarter. That's not too bad for the nineteenth month of an economic recovery. Furthermore, estimates for the rest of the year's GNP are low, which signals still lower future inflation.

The well-known Consumer Price Index, for example, reported that in June, consumer prices increased only 0.2 percent, or 2

percent annually. That number was the same for May, but much lower than April's robust 5.6 percent increase. One thing should be mentioned, however: Because of being based on a specific market basket of goods that does not incorporate changes in consumer tastes and preferences over time, the CPI usually overstates the rate of inflation. Perhaps inflation is even lower than suggested.

Moreover, durable goods orders, which are orders for goods that last three or more years, decreased 3.2 percent last month. This implies that consumer demand is slowing, further reducing inflationary expectations — in the near term.

The stock market's reaction to all this news was a mixed bag. At first, the market continued its five-day downward trend, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Wednesday closing at a 17-month low of 1,086. Fears of rapidly accelerating inflation and interest rates were the culprits.

What happened was the stock market believed that the Federal Reserve had further tightened monetary policy. Interest rates, it was expected, would increase as a result of more sectors of the economy —

government, business and consumers — competing for fewer dollars. With rising interest rates, businesses would not expand inventories — crowding out. If consumer demand remained strong, prices consequently would be bid up. Thus, inflation would ignite.

The market's fear was understandable. But, Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker told the Senate on Wednesday that monetary policy would not be any tighter — Reagan's — and the Fed's — policies of sustained long-term growth with lower inflation rates that have received credibility. Early June's predicted summer stock market rally may now become a reality.

Economically speaking, the Democrats now have nothing to decay. After all, it's Reagan's — and the Fed's — policies of sustained long-term growth with lower inflation rates that have received credibility. Granted, the federal deficit is still high, but so-called "crowding out" has not yet appeared, which implies interest rates are not yet high enough for businesses and consumers. In fact, some analysts are now predicting steady, if not lower, interest rates in the

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Jeffrey J. Diecidue is a senior majoring in journalism and economics, and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.