

## editorial opinion

### Who doesn't understand?

Unless you're summit-smiling President Reagan, it would be rather difficult to misinterpret the remarks made by Chief of Staff Donald Regan in reference to women during an interview with *The Washington Post* Monday.

"They (women) are not... going to understand (missile) throw-weights or what is happening in Afghanistan or what is happening in human rights. Some women will, but most women — believe me, your readers for the most part if you took a poll — would rather read the human interest stuff of what happened," Regan said.

Generalizations like this have made the Reagan administration unpopular among feminists, and rightly so. The chief of staff's comments are typical of the administration's attitude toward women, and reflect a lack of education.

President Reagan fueled the fire by attempting to defend Regan with this statement: "I don't think he meant for it to be interpreted in that way at all. He was simply adding to that interest, that they had an interest in children and a human touch." Children and a human touch? How sweet. Women today are facing great challenges

professionally and intellectually. Statements like those expressed by the chief of staff and the president show an insulting, primitive view toward women, and indicate a lack of support in the fight for equality.

It is frightening that such regressive sentiments are held by a group of men who are controlling the welfare of this country. It is even more frightening that they have the nerve to openly express them.

It appears that the fight for equality will be hindered by the current administration, whose members seem to believe that women should resume more traditional roles in society.

As former New York Congresswoman Bella Abzug so aptly put it, Regan's remark was an insult to all women and was based on men's fear of sharing power with the other sex.

"It's not true that women don't care and don't know. Women know a lot more than men want to concede," she said.

Whether or not women or men understand the issues facing the nation today, the time has come for the leaders of this country to face facts: the day of the "little woman" is rapidly ending.



## reader opinion

### Volleyball needed

A recently published memo from the office of the Athletic Director of Penn State is bringing a highly successful era to an end. The Strategic Planning Committee of that office has recommended that the Penn State men's volleyball team become a zero support activity. This means that no more money will be given to the team to continue playing, which basically makes the team defunct.

Penn State volleyball has been a leader in the sport for many years. The team was begun here in 1969 by Dr. Tom many years. In 1976, the team won the United States Volleyball Association's National Championship. In 1982, Penn State became the first school on the east coast to host the NCAA national championships and the team that year responded by being the first and only east coast team to get to the finals. This year Penn State is once again the site of the NCAA Championships and the team is also a potential national champion. This year's Nittany Lions are a young team with nine of 14 players being either sophomores or freshmen. The team not only promises great excitement this year, but also for many years to come.

However, with the prospect of termination hanging over their heads, how can they be expected to perform to their fullest potential? What is to become of these great athletes? What is to become of all the future stars in our Pennsylvania high schools?

Finally, what is to become of this great sport which brought this country a gold medal in the last Olympics? Penn State needs men's volleyball now and in the future!

Eric Shope, assistant coach, PSU men's volleyball  
Nov. 13

### Counterproductive

The recent news from the Athletic Department concerning the cuts in grants-in-aid to a number of varsity sports programs is distressing in several ways.

First, one gets the distinct impression from the comments of several of the coaches that none of them were even brought into the discussions about financial cutbacks. It sounds like the coaches found out about these decisions from a letter in their mailboxes without even

being a part of the discussions of how to save money in the athletic budget.

Second, although the continuance of a varsity sport should not be completely judged by how successful it is (we don't need "win at all cost" mentality!), it certainly appears penny-wise but pound-foolish to slap programs that obviously have been successful.

What is the purpose of all that effort if your reward is a punishment? And finally, while I happen to believe that athletic budgets are too large and agree with the intention to trim costs, is cutting the grants-in-aid the only way to reduce expenditures? Why didn't the administrators pose the question of "how can we cut back X number of dollars" to the coaching staffs and at least give them an opportunity to solve the problem.

I am sure that the coaches are not unaware of the financial difficulties and I am also sure that given their collective brains, there are some other alternatives to cutting back grants-in-aid. For example, what about the athlete cutting expenses in all other possible ways, there still needs to be more cuts than so be it. But until evidence is produced that other cost cutting methods have been used, I think the present approach is counterproductive.

Dennis Roberts, associate professor of educational psychology  
Nov. 18

I hope in the wisdom of the people who make decisions about athletic team funding that they will see that tampering with grants-in-aid is the wrong strategy. If, after cutting expenses in all other possible ways, there still needs to be more cuts than so be it. But until evidence is produced that other cost cutting methods have been used, I think the present approach is counterproductive.

Dennis Roberts, associate professor of educational psychology  
Nov. 18

### Too soon

I'm writing about Christmas too soon. It's upsetting to see our beloved stores in the U.S.A. selling Christmas items so soon just for the sake of money. Christmas is the most selling time of the year, but what is Christmas?

First, one gets the distinct impression from the comments of several of the coaches that none of them were even brought into the discussions about financial cutbacks. It sounds like the coaches found out about these decisions from a letter in their mailboxes without even

Garry Fischer  
Nov. 8

## opinions

### Look deeper

On Christian Responsibility:

I am disturbed and saddened by Mark Parrish's letter on Wednesday, Nov. 4, concerning what he perceives as John Orr's "antagonism, bitterness, and hatred towards God."

I am disturbed because Mr. Parrish may have overlooked John's sensitive column on pain and vulnerability last week ("Feet in the Door"), and is still remembering Orr's very first column this semester (which bothered me, too).

If anything, Mike, there may be more in Bill Repsher's wildly inventive columns for you to flog verses of condemnation at.

More importantly, I am saddened because you feel it is your right or prerogative as a Christian to identify evil and shun it publicly in such a self-righteous way.

I am reminded of a preacher outside of Willard Building some weeks ago, standing on a platform with a cross, proclaiming the "fact" that he was the only one there who would admit his sinfulness.

I realize that there is a strong element of judgment in what I am saying, but my sadness over this letter comes from my being a Christian who realized almost too late that "be ye not of this world" does not mean self-elevation through judgment of others.

I do not agree with everything John says, and if I felt less responsible about conscientious writing, I would do my best to blow Michael Mayer out of the water, but we are not called as people (Christians or not) to respond with only anger.

As I feel John Orr did last week, I believe we are to respond sensitively and deeply to the issues that touch us all.

It is ironic that John's article was full of a Christian love and sensitivity that a Christian like Mark Parrish cannot see.

Robin Watts, freshman-liberal arts  
Nov. 21

### PSU heart

Life expectancy has increased tremendously in the last 75 years. This is due to the technological advances in medicine including the application of electronics to medicine.

PSU's experimental pneumatic heart is an example of the role of electronics in medicine. The heart enabled the patient, Anthony Mandia, to sit up in bed. This was because the Penn State heart automatically adjusted to the increased blood flow demands.

A major problem with the other artificial hearts was the obstruction of the blood vessels going in and out of the heart. However, the PSU heart did not cause any blood clotting.

Even though Mandia died, the pneumatic heart must be considered a success. I believe this and similar accomplishments will eventually let artificial heart patients lead normal lives.

Robin Watts, freshman-liberal arts  
Nov. 21

## Ron and me:

### Two dreamers as close as John-Boy and his grandpa

And those things do best please me  
That befall preposterously.  
— Puck, from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



I think that if I have one personality trait that I can say I'm proud of, it's my ability to laugh at myself. And believe me, I've had lots of practice. In my 22-and-a-half years, I've dug many holes of embarrassment from which the only escape was to blush and climb my way out on a ladder of laughter.

Laughter saved me nine years ago when I ripped the seat of my pants in front of 35 other pubescent eighth-graders, and laughter saved me a few weeks ago when I tripped up the stairs to the dining hall. I fell preposterously, indeed.

And all of that practice has paid off. I don't even mind being laughed at by other people now. A few weeks ago, I got caught in an ersatz typhoon, and by the time I made it from the Greyhound station to my home in East Halls, I looked like a 6-foot-2, 165-pound sponge. When I finally found shelter from the downpour, I was spotted by a strange woman who found it impossible to keep from laughing. In fact, I think she would have had a better chance holding back a sneeze.

I must admit that I was a humorous sight, with water droplets running down the length of my nose, and my pants making those squishing noises with each step I took. But hey, it was that kind of embarrassment that made Gene Kelly rich and famous. If only I could dance.

The key to success, then, is not what you know, nor is it who you know. It's not even having enough money to buy success. Though I can't

deny that these are valuable assets, the key to success is possessing the ability to laugh at yourself.

Let's look at one of the most successful men in the world, a man who has more to laugh at in himself than even I. Let's look at a man with whom I feel an almost familial bond. Let's look at our president, Ron Reagan. The man, like me, is laughed at all the time.

I feel almost as close to Ron as John-Boy Walton felt to his grandpa. And it's all because Ron and I both know what it's like to be laughed at. People laugh at me because I'm an idealist and an optimist. They tell me that nothing and no one can change what is, so accept it. And then they laugh. "You're a dreamer," they say.

I take it as a compliment. "Just look at our president," I reply. "He's the biggest dreamer around and it got him a big white house to live in for a while. He dreams of balancing a trillion-dollar budget — now that's dreaming." I can really identify with that kind of thinking.

Ron and I have some minor differences, of course. But those differences serve as reminders that he and I are only human. We each know that we have physical limitations, but that our imaginations are limitless. Ron and I both try to imagine a world living in peace, but our methods of imagination and reason sometimes differ slightly.

I believe the world can achieve peace in a simple way — with awareness, understanding, and mutual respect. On the other hand, Ron, being the enigmatic thinker and ultra-dreamer that he is, believes that peace must be achieved by threatening these human aspects with high-tech weapons and less-than-completely-honest international diplomacy.

But it's a complex world — maybe Ron is doing something right by trying to achieve peace in such a complex, confusing and paradoxical way. Maybe there really is a method to his apparent madness.

And he's certainly not alone in his thinking. There are men all over the world who have achieved similar personal success based on the belief that peace needs to be guarded by missiles that can turn the planet Earth into an ashtray on

the coffee table of the universe. You've got to admire those guys for what they've accomplished. I mean, I know that I certainly never would have devised such a unique solution to finding world peace. I guess I think too simplistically for this world of complexity.

But let's get back to Mr. Reagan — the man I'm amazed. Look at what he has accomplished as an individual. He's in his second term as president of the most powerful and influential capitalist country in the world, he was the governor of California for eons, and he has absolutely no qualifications to have held either position. Unless, of course, his tenure as president of the Screen Actors Guild provided him with a knowledge of economics, law, and foreign policy.

But this is America, remember — the Land of Opportunity. In what other country can you go to a supermarket and choose between 20 different kinds of potato chips? In what other country can you catch up on the day's sports activities at any time and watch music videos 24 hours a day, if you so desire? What other country serves the interests of its people better than the United States? What other country allows so many divergent opinions to be expressed?

I am truly grateful to this country for providing me with the opportunity to earn a quality education and for creating a standard of living that no other country can claim to have. And I'm sure that Ron Reagan is grateful to this country for the same reasons. That's just another reason why I feel so close to the man.

He has reached the pinnacle of success and power in everything he has done. And it is his ability to laugh at himself that got him where he is today. I'm willing to bet that, right now, Ron is sitting in that oblong office of his, with his hands cupped behind his head, his feet on his desk, and his dog Lucky by his side, and he's thinking about those embarrassing days when he starred in B-movies opposite Bonzo, the chimp... and now he's the president.

I'll bet he's having a good laugh. I know I am. Ron Brodeur is a senior majoring in English and a columnist for *The Daily Collegian*.

## Collegian

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### The Weinberger Letter:

Section I  
Section II  
Section III

Richard Weinberger  
Re: the Weinberger Letter

Richard Weinberger  
Re: the Weinberger Letter

## More Items:

Since the urge to write coherently evades me, sit back and watch my mind fall to pieces

Item: Stereotyping individuals is a travesty! How can we be so damned insensitive? What gives us the right to slap labels on our fellow humans?

Item: I sat and wondered how he'd handle someone with syphilis.

Item: Are women on campus dressing like Madonna or observing Hindu holy days? Is this the latest rage in Calcutta?

Item: I am not cynical. My underwear is too tight. That's all.

Item: Knee jerks of any political persuasion infuriate me. Reasoning is a lost art. Many of my friends are liberal; when I state my opposition to abortion, they treat me like a Nazi on Donahue. Likewise, my conservative friends call me a wimp for my stand against nuclear arms.

Item: What's the main difference between a small-town Christian who knows God exists and a big-city atheist who knows there is no God? About a hundred miles.

Item: I watched a faith-healer on TV last Saturday. He would call a member of the audience to the stage and place his hands on the afflicted part of the person's body. Why, I saw him heal a man's broken wrist!

Item: Writing is procreation; reading is creation. You want to compliment me? Call me a catalyst.

Item: Young men like to talk loud, and they don't care who hears them. It's embarrassing when my friends insult someone in that person's presence. They always say they're just being honest and call me a hypocrite for chastising them. In my personal life, I'd rather be a nice hypocrite than an honest ass. People have enough problems without overhearing my opinion of them.

Item: Call me naive, but I think BDR classes are beneficial to students later in life, especially if they end up being game-show contestants.

Item: Over 20,000 people were killed in Colombia last week by a gigantic mudslide. None were Americans. Next item.

Item: I don't see the point in disregarding an entire religion over a few personal objections. I'm not the type who throws away a

Big Mac because they forgot to remove the pickles.

Item: Writing in a smooth, professional style has nothing to do with talent. The backs of cereal boxes are well-written. I'm just as interested by the ingredients of Cocoa Puffs as by a smooth piece of writing. Anyone can learn to do that. Behind every piece of great writing is a person who squeezes a tube of toothpaste at the middle.

Item: Latest fashion craze on campus — wearing underwear on the outside of your clothes. Next year, it will be turning them inside-out.

Item: Paranoia is a bed-wetting child with his first electric blanket; it is also a claustrophobic in a Potomac booth.

Item: Some readers complain that I write about religion too much. What can I say? I'm just a kooky guy with a vision. I've reached a point in my life where watching the morning sky for granted anymore, but I don't necessarily want answers from it. Life is longer than we're led to believe; no one does it alone.

Item: All over the South Bronx, and Monongahela way / Everybody's gone serfin', Serfin' U.S.A.

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