opinions

editorial opinion

Owning up to responsibility

bear arms shall not be infringed. tion of the United States.

The two bank robbers who shot and killed political "defeats." two FBI agents and wounded several others The NRA's powerful Washington lobby of in Miami last week exercised that right. As three million people, its \$1.4 million in Countless Americans exercise their right guns have born fruit.

to bear arms in robberies, murders and Several lawmakers have admitted that suicides every day.

dered with handguns, 1,100 others were lose an election. killed accidentally and 12,000 used hand- "It's a classic example of the power of big by handguns in 1983. Canada had six and the Congress at its worst." Japan had 92 in the same year.

Kennedy prompted the U.S. Congress to similar measure last summer. adopt the 1968 Gun Control Act to regulate Let's face it, the NRA has become the - not prohibit - the use of guns.

resentatives and the National Rifle Associa- interests. tion did to it last week.

date minimum sentences for using a gun in The First Amendment guarantees newsa violent crime and allow the interstate sale papers their right to print. But newspapers of rifles and shotguns. The bill would also also have a responsibility not to recklessly ease record-keeping rules for dealers, allow libel an individual or invade a citizen's unrecorded sales from dealers' personal privacy. When a newspaper ignores that collections, restrict federal inspections of responsibility, it has to answer to the law. dealers and require evidence of "willful" It is time for Congress to put aside its violations in prosecuting dealers.

 \ldots The right of the people to keep and Second Amendment right — is the interstate sale of handguns. This move was -The Second Amendment to the Constitu- considered a major political defeat to the NRA.

Most politicians dream of such major

did John Hinkley Jr. when he severely campaign contributions to 1984 elections injured Press Secretary James Brady in an and its advertising campaign claiming cerattempt to assassinate President Reagan. tain legislators want to take away people's

the House is intimidated by the NRA; it has In 1983 alone, 9,014 Americans were mur- made gun control an issue that could win or

guns to take their own lives. By compari- money and a well-orchestrated campaign son, England, with one of the strictest gun by a narrow interest," said U.S. Rep. Robcontrol laws in the world, had four murders ert G. Torricelli, D-N.J. "It's an example of

Further, it appears that the same bill will In 1968, the assassination of Robert F. also pass in the Senate, which passed a

advocate of gun dealers, not gun owners, But the Gun Control Act ain't what it used and has wrenched the nation's lawmakers to be — not after what the House of Rep- into conforming with its ever-narrowing

With all rights guaranteed under the The House passed a bill that would man- Constitution come responsibility.

political considerations long enough to What the House did not allow — heeding stand up to the NRA and make sure that the cries of the nation's police, who have to with the right to sell and own firearms face some of the lunatics who exercise their comes accountablity under the law.

reader opinion

Injustice

college must be in the Amazon. No others who have helped to bring the heid. folks it's Penn State! By now are you plight of the South African Blacks to By all means, let us continue to baffled? The other day in class I was our attention. moaning because summer semester tuition bills are coming out soon.

the University with a 75 percent dis- mind. count in tuition cost per semester. Was I shocked! Penn State's administration is com- tices. Divestment from companies

plaining because the University did that are in South Africa may be a **Stereotypes** not get enough funds from the state, good idea, but only in the short term. so tuition is expected to increase. Let me ask this: suppose the Univer-Why do I pay \$1,380 to attend classes sity does divest, then what? Will the articles concerning minority probfull-time when dependent's of faculty protests cease? Will the voice for lems lately. The article "Study says and staff pay about \$385? When your justice in South Africa become silent men do not respect women" in the tuition bill arrives try explaining this on campus? discount to your parents.

At one time, the reason for this that is what will happen. By divesthuge tuition discount was Penn ing, are we going to be satisfied and State's faculty and staff were under- say, "Well, we did our part?" Or will paid compared to private businesses. the call to divest become a slap in our Years ago, perhaps this was true but faces? wages and benefits at the University Now suppose we do divest. The are now comparable to most businesses, and the benefits are above average.

Some people may say discounted tuition is just a fringe benefit of the a quick profit? system, but I strongly disagree! This is a public university offering

a superior level of higher education, so why should some of us be charged more than others for our education? My suggestion is to make every- Africa.

one's tuition the same (provided they 'are Pennsylvania residents). the University's budget problems, but it sure seems like the right way to

handle this injustice.

Alternatives

During the past year we have been letter to his congressman, we would more integrated society. reminded of the struggle that is tak- force the issue to become an inpor-

We're not the N.R.A.

We just happened to be living our lives in peace when we were shot by nuts and Criminals who were able to easily buy cons.

That's all we wanted to say.

Ang. Kenny Robertkum M.I. King James Brady

tor: Amy Fellin; Assistant Campus dress and phone number for verifi-**CHANGE STRA** Editor: Celeste McCauley; Sports cation of the letter.

Two-plus-two:

I was taking role when he walked into the room. A medieval monk's tunic draped his enormous bulk. As he wedged himself into the last seat of the middle row, all my students turned to stare at him. The two women sitting by the radiator giggled. I looked at my class list, then at him. I asked, "Who are you?"

He answered me in a dead language, "Vero sum Thomaso." "Wait a minute — I get it. You're a monitor from that Accuracy in Academia outfit, aren't you?"

He just stared back at me; he never blinked Hold it, I thought. Huge. Medieval friar. are characterized by their commitment to

Aquinas? And then I woke up. I lay in bed and let the critical human issues — but does that really dream fade into the fields of memory. True, make us one of the "best universities?"

how about Truth in Academia? He had said, dress critical human issues? We're so busy "Vero — in truth — I am St. Thomas building shanties that we haven't really Aguinas," patron of schools; the foremost examined whether we have built a universischolastic theologian and philosopher. I fell ty that properly prepares us to confront the back to sleep.

people to live the best human life? As I walked about campus, I saw shan- with the ironies of human life?



ties, sit-ins, fasts and protests. I picked up a paper and read the words of a wise professor: "The best universities in the country Thomas. "You're — you're Saint Thomas publicly debating critical human issues." Well, it seems we're publicly debating

he wasn't from Accuracy in Academia. He How do we have the right to say that we represented something bigger than that - hold the vantage point from which to adparadoxes of human existence. For a brief The next day, as I taught and went to moment, let's turn our critical eye away classes. I thought about Truth and the from South Africa and onto our University. University. We're Penn State Proud, but So, what is our "best University" doing to are we Penn State True - true to preparing form us into people who can take on the critical human issues, people who can deal

Penn State True — true to preparing people to live the best human life

ness. Why do undergrads have to take one. BDRs? The answer is never clear, but a student realizes that the best way to deal

Since he/she is never made to see the logic (if there is a logic to it) of taking a 'whole bunch of courses that don't matter,' the only relevance he/she finds in the BDRs is that they have to be taken to get a degree. Hopefully, the proposed replacement of BDRs with things called "Breadth and

Depth Courses" will provide more of a coherence to undergraduate education. But at present, the method is: you take your BDRs, you get your degree, you get your job. Two-plus-two-equals-four — simple, right'

Then what does this two-plus-two approach say about the undergraduate degree have no pat, categorical solutions. programs at our best University? BDRs are a means to a degree, which is a means to a get a job. However, it isn't teaching us a abandon our dreams, then we've lost the job. Thus, the end of a university education is a job, right? Wrong.

Vocational-technical schools are job-

degree, and you get a high-paying job. exempt from methodology. In many seminars, we are encouraged, or even required, to produce publishable work. We also have slowly erodes our ability to break away to take a required course: Research Meth- from the strict confines of the method. To ods and Materials. If you get published, you've got an ideal shot at a tenure-track ofessor's position. Two-plus-two . . . But what does all this method have to do plus-two equation

with preparing us to address critical human issues? Methods produce pat answers to very limited questions. Apartheid, Nicara- there is so much more to life than what we gua, death, God, human pain and suffering can see with our eyes and that there ought to Sure, the University is teaching us how to od. When he starts to skip our classes and

substantial and meaningful way to pursue ability to properly address critical human Most of us would agree that there is more

grade is to lose the degree is to fail at life Irrational numbers don't fit into the two-Aquinas sits at the back of our classes and in the back of our dreams to hint to us that be much more to our education than meth-

training institutes. Now we hit the root of to human existence than working and earn- Randall Beeler is a graduate in English the problem: in light of the two-plus-two ing sustenance - this platitude becomes and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His approach, nothing distinguishes the Univer- most apparent when we are writhing in pain column appears every other Tuesday.

Well, all the undergraduates have to take sity from a glorified vo-tech. But shouldn't a from a blow dealt by life. If a loved one dies baccalaureate degree requirements. And university be different from a vo-tech? If we in a car crash, we certainly don't turn to our there is a method behind this BDR mad- wanted a vo-tech, we would have gone to jobs for an answer to the question, "Why?" Four years at a university should be a Methods. We're taught neat little meth- gestation period. Commencement, in its sometime during his/her undergrad career, ods. Every class is an experience in meth- ideal form, is a beginning, a birth into life of odology. Go to class, take notes, memorize / a fully human person prepared to deal with with BDRs is the two-plus-two-equals-four the information, spit it out on the exam, joy and pain. One learns to deal with them make the grade - two-plus-two-equals- not by solving them but by living with them. four. You make enough grades, you get a So, the methodologists shrug and answer us — "you must supply the meaning; you

We English graduate majors aren't must live the pain and joy." But the relentless reiteration of methods crushes the individual's exercise of imagination and depart from the method is to not make the

life itself.

The Daily Collegian Tuesday, April 15, 1986

I believe we should give a round of I say let us write to the our goverapplause to the Black Student Coali- nors, senators, representatives and A 75 percent discount in college tion Against Racism and the Under- even the President to push for a tuition - unheard you think? The graduate Student Government and strong political force against apart-

protest against apartheid. Picket the Their sincere efforts to educate us University, hold meetings and continof the evils of apartheid is in keeping ue education efforts to win more Someone sitting next to me in class with the traditions of university. followers. But, let us examine other stated that children and spouses of However, the ending of apartheid by ways that may be just as effective or Penn State faculty and staff attend divestment brings some doubts to perhaps better to end this evil system of injustice.

Dale Kern, senior-history I support efforts to stop such prac-Charles Pappas, senior-meteorology

I am against apartheid and racism.

I certainly hope not, but I believe

stock is placed on the open market

where someone else is going to buy it.

heid, or will he see it as a way to gain

I would like to propose another idea

They could use the stocks in the

Tuesday, April 15, 1986

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tant question in Congress.

The Daily Collegian has printed

April 8 edition concerned me. Women have their problems. One such problem is traditional job stereotyping which involves low pay and

low prestige. However, the greatest problem that women deal with is that our society (both male and female) perpetuate traditional male/female roles. Little girls are taught that their success in Will that person care about apartlife depends upon acceptance by someone else, usually a male. Little

boys are taught to achieve. Why are girls taught to be passive to help end apartheid in South Africa. Suppose Penn State would form a and submissive and little boys taught union with other universities that to be assertive and independent? Just have stocks in companies in South because this society has always been a white, male world doesn't mean

there is no hope companies to demand the South Afri- There are opportunities for all of us This increase in funds won't solve can government to end apartheid. to change the existing sex role stereo-Should we not be active in ending typing. Children should be raised apartheid instead of becoming pas- with an idea of a healthy individual's charateristics (not male, not female, Ann Hubbard Along with using the stock to direct but an integrated approach). sophomore-recreation and parks these companies, how about the up- Uniqueness can exist when we stop

coming congressional elections? If the stereotyping that sets us all apart. everyone who is against apartheid This will break the narrow thinking of registers to vote and would write a the white male society and create a

Renee Lehman unior-health education

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The desire to turn life into an irreverent joke with a razor punchline

So much more attractive inside a moral kiosk - from "Moral Kiosk" by R.E.M. I wish my roomie would get her head out of the clouds and back in the gutter where it belongs. She's such a sap. She believes in unicorns and rainbows. She tries to convince me into liking poetry and pep rallies. She listens to Barry Manilow and Julio Iglesias. She thinks everything's morality and sunshine. I put strychnine in her fruit iuice. - Miss Anne Thrope.

Lately chaos has been an elemental theme in my life. It makes my mind itchy. is speeding inexorably toward entropy any-"Oh, Jesus." I say when I open the newspa- way per and eventually turn to the letters to the editor. "I hate you and you and you. And this person's stupid." They say the same self-righteous things again and again. I turn to the comics.

I think about it sometimes though. I think - and I feel chaotic and want to strike out. I want to spraypaint graffiti on it. "Absurdity was here," I'd write. I'd do it in Day Glo orange.

My thoughts turn, again, to things mindfiled under "Other Universal Ironies and Vast Ponderments.

All Seats Reserved

Emil Those

scheme of things matter when the universe

It's funny to think that in, what, another few billion years, all the stars will have burned out if the universe hasn't first collasped back into a monobloc. (Of course, these metaphysical diversions are pointless and futile. So I'll pop another tape in the about the world - where it's going, where cassette player, tear open another bag of I'm going, who the hell the world thinks it is chips, slug down another beer. Maybe the next universe . . .) But the world doesn't go away. You resur-

face. You don't drown. Sometimes, but not often. I think of suicide and marvel at the impossibility of it. I can relate to the motivation and I understand

But I look outside my window and see the

turn life into one big irreverent joke with a do cynical instead of be cynical. I want to be income tax again. razor punchline. I want to rub people the anti-everything. wrong way. I want to do all the things the do - not because I don't care but because I

With blatant disregard for social norms, I want to urinate on public walls. I want to sit in the middle of a busy street and read Webster's New Riverside University Dictionary aloud to passing motorists. "Rhizoid: a rootlike extension of the thallus of a fungus.'

I want to climb trees and buildings like a monkey and throw paper airplanes to people below. I want to go on national TV and give the world the finger. I want to line up representatives of every organization with high social and moral merit, call them sanctimonious simpletons, then give them a raspberry. I want to rent an airplane and drop water balloons on Washington, D.C.

Speaking of Washington, I want to shake the hand of Ronald Reagan with a joy buzzer concealed in my palm. I want to take sing "Happy Days Are Here Again" when- icism. a marker and black out the front teeth of ever the phone bill comes in the mail. I get a

But here I am going to college so I can get world.

could be called "anti-social" or "self-destructive" because I don't want to be arrested and have it on my permanent record, labeling me forever as a social deviant, a misanthrope, someone who "doesn't get along and play well with others.'

Here I am being conventional, unreckless, law-abiding, quiet and reserved, never parking my car outside the yellow lines, bludgeoning heavy metal rock singers to death or wearing nickles taped to my forehead. Here I am being a part of s-socsociety (spit it out). And do I love it?

Hey! I get down on my knees and praise



pizza is actually 12" in

that Domino's Pizza uses only 100% pure

As always, we deliver.

30 minutes

PARKWAY

