

opinions

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The Daily Collegian
Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1986

editorial opinion

Diamond Don shouldn't do PSU

Given the fiscal importance of Penn State's \$200 million fund-raising campaign, you'd think the University could have found a political figure with a little more public relations clout, or even simple tact, than White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan to kick it off. Was James Watt unavailable?

Although Regan's appearance at the Sept. 13 inaugural gala has not been officially confirmed, Secret Service agents have already been on campus to prepare for the visit. Student leaders also have begun their preparations by sending a letter to University President Bryce Jordan expressing their justifiable concern over Regan's suitability.

Some have called him the most powerful man in America, but Regan's well-documented views on women and South African sanctions hardly qualify him as representative of higher education. Rather, they seem to be the product of no education whatsoever.

During November's Geneva arms-control summit, Regan suggested that women could not understand the issues involved and were more interested in Nancy Regan's wardrobe anyway.

Then, in defense of the president's anti-sanctions stance toward South Africa, Regan noted that American women would have to do without that country's rich supply of diamonds. "Are the women of America prepared to give up all their jewelry?" Diamond Don wondered.

The real question is: Does Penn State want its fund-raising campaign tainted by such blatant misogyny?

"I think it is an unfortunate beginning to a

development campaign which ideally would move the University closer to its goal of equality," said Sabrina Chapman, coordinator of the Center for Women Students.

Undergraduate Student Government Vice President Sue Sturgis feared that Regan's visit would alienate "half the number of people who would give to the campaign."

Regan's selection is even more baffling considering the possible alternatives. In the administrator's own back yard, football coach Joe Paterno has boosted Penn State's nationwide reputation through athletics while tirelessly promoting academics as well.

And when Penn State's football team celebrated a "Century of Excellence" last month it got comedian Bob Hope for the occasion. Perhaps Donald Regan is the University's idea of a joke.

If the ramifications were not so serious, it may have been funny. As it stands now, Penn State is about to begin its capital campaign with a public relations disaster.

The University Student Executive Council should be supported in its attempt to stop Regan's visit, if for no other reason than to distance students from Regan's obtuse conservatism.

An administration that already suffers from some money-talks-students-walk public relations problems might want to take this to heart and dissociate itself from Regan. To use reasoning that will be appreciated in Old Main, Regan's visit could cost the University money, not just its image.

He may be the most powerful man in America, but all Regan possesses at University Park is the power to contaminate a good idea with repugnant politics.



"IF YOU CAN FIND A BETTER CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, NOMINATE HIM!"

Good help is hard to find

The Daily Collegian is looking for a few good columnists for Fall Semester 1986.

Columnists will be expected to write opinionated, well-written and researched columns for the editorial opinion page concerning issues and topics that are currently capturing the public's attention — either locally or nationally.

Applications are now available in 126 Carnegie Building.

All former columnists must reapply if they want to retain their position.

Please pick up an application for further details.

The deadline for all applications is Wednesday, Sept. 3, 1986 at 5 p.m. No late applications will be accepted.

The list of Fall Semester columnists will be posted on Tuesday, Sept. 9 in 126 Carnegie Building.

Questions should be directed to Opinion Editor Jill Graham or Assistant Opinion Editor Alan J. Craver in the Collegian office or at 865-1028.

The Collegian is accepting applications for a new columnist position. You must demonstrate good drawing ability along with a perceptive grasp of current events and the ability to comment on them on a regular basis.

Applications are now available at the Collegian in 126 Carnegie Building. The deadline for applications and drawing samples is Friday, Sept. 5.

reader opinion

Bomb scare

Let us assume that Reagan had spent \$2 trillion to fund a Star Wars system and that it worked perfectly as he claims it would. Could the Soviets still launch a first strike against the United States?

A hydrogen bomb is small enough to carry in a suitcase. The casing for such a bomb could be made in the United States. The electronics that would detonate the bomb could be bought over the counter in any city in the country. The triggers that would detonate the bomb could be manufactured in a machine shop by Soviet agents in the United States. The plastic explosive that would cause the initial explosion could be bought or made in the United States.

The Soviets would only have to smuggle in the hydrogen fuel and the plutonium. The Soviets could assemble 500 bombs and place them in strategic locations where they could all be detonated simultaneously via satellite. Would Reagan's Star Wars system defend the country against this type of nuclear attack?

ported by oath or affirmation . . . Or, in other words, you can't search everyone, innocent and guilty alike, to find the few who are guilty.

President Reagan is getting a lot of press over his proposed voluntary drug testing of federal employees; unfortunately, neither the press nor the people have reacted to the real danger of Reagan's plan.

By allowing these supposedly "voluntary" tests, Reagan is violating his presidential oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in particular, the Fourth Amendment. He is allowing a basic principle of the people to be destroyed; he is helping make America ripe for another King George.

President Reagan has allowed the Army, Navy, Justice and Treasury departments to conduct drug testing (searches) on civilians without probable cause as long ago as November 1983! He also allowed the Postal Service to drug test (search) applicants without probable cause.

Many argue that drug testing is required for job safety and performance; public safety is paramount. Unfortunately, drug testing does not measure job performance, therefore, the job performance argument must be considered as merely a gimmick to gain control.

And predictably, private industry followed his lead. Now 25 percent of major American companies have instituted drug testing programs.

Where does it stop?

Richard Prawdzenski
Lowell, Massachusetts resident

Supreme racism

One need not look as far as South Africa to find racism. In a few weeks, William Rehnquist will bring it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Randy J. Manloff
Junior-marketing

Use this space

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and area residents concerning issues and topics of interest to the Collegian's readership.

Even though we are entering only the second week of the Fall Semester, many important issues already confront the University community.

The Collegian wants to know what you think about:

- The effects on the University community caused by the 25 percent decrease in black freshmen enrollment.
- The University's stricter policy which will crack down on underage drinking on campus and at University events such as football tailgates.

Authors must present letters to the editor (no more than 1 1/2 pages, double-spaced) or forums (up to

three typed pages, double-spaced) to the Collegian in 126 Carnegie Building during office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students' letters should include the semester and major of each writer. Letters from alumni should include the author's major and year of graduation.

All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter.

The opinion editor 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 number of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee publication.

All letters become the property of Collegian Inc.

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the Collegian

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1986
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Anita C. Huslin
Editor
William G. Landis Jr.
Business Manager

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of

Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages do not necessarily reflect those of The Daily Collegian, Collegian Inc. or The Pennsylvania State University. Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager. If a complaint is not satisfactory, reviewers may be filed with the Accuracy and Fair Play Committee of Collegian Inc. Information on filing grievances is available from Gory Lynn Hollihan, executive secretary, Collegian Inc.

Letters Policy: The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than one and one-half pages. Forum must also be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than three pages.

contrast: Collegian vs. Collegian

News staff: Dedication, despite sallow complexions

If ever you walk into the cavernous offices of the Daily Collegian, it will instantly become obvious to you what makes this newspaper great.

As you enter 126 Carnegie, straight ahead and to your left behind a long white counter, you will notice a dozen or so tanned, well-dressed, aloof-looking people milling about. These people represent the business division of the Collegian.

These folks are well-tanned because they work on shifts arranged around the optimum mid-day tanning hours. They also only work from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Standing behind the long, white counter they are separated from the hot, sweaty masses that come in every day to buy personal and classified ads.

These calm, cool and collected people behind the counter live by the rule that says "money talks." They represent the future of Wall Street.

Now if you look to your right you will see what looks like utter chaos — wild-eyed people running around flailing telephone receivers and scribbling furiously in notebooks while others pound away at video display terminals. These frenetic people comprise the news division of the Collegian.

For the most part, they sport sallow complexions, red-rimmed eyes and less than 2.0 GPAs because of their all-consuming devotion to the one, most important thing in their lives — journalism. Their motto is "if there's a story here, we'll find it." These workaholics represent the future of The New York Times.

The business folks do a great job of answering telephones, filling out resume request forms and bustling around their side of the office, wearing their little plastic nametags. Some of them are actu-

Business staff: Win or lose, appearance is all that counts

"Are you one of those crazy liberal writers that writes that garbage in The Daily Collegian every day?" I looked down at my Collegian sweatshirt and realized I was mistaken once again for a reporter. I tried to explain that I worked on the business staff, but knew it was futile.

In this person's mind, I was a radical left-wing fanatic and possibly even a Democrat. That's the way it is in this business, though. Few people realize what the business division of a newspaper does, or that it even exists.

The business division's primary function is to sell advertising. Today's paper is 54 percent advertising, so I contend that by virtue of taking up the majority of the space, the advertising is more important than the news and editorial content.

I do concede that it is quite possible if not one would read The Collegian if it was all ads, but we sure would save some money. (Oops, that's the business person inside of me surfacing again!) The point is that the news and business divisions do their share to produce the news and advertising package you see every day.

The differences between people here six days a week are probably more surprised at times to see copies of our daily rag on the streets and in the dining halls every day ready to greet those people who are insane enough to get up that early.

But as a last plug, let me assure you that we go to press every night primarily because of the skill and dedication of nearly 200 reporters, editors, photographers and graphic artists who represent the heart of this fine organization — The News Staff.

Anita Huslin is a senior majoring in Journalism and the editor of The Daily Collegian.

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Applications due no later than
Wednesday, 15 October 1986

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