

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1986

editorial opinion

A united front for divestment

For those of you keeping score, add yet another name to the list of nominees vying for the "Acronym of the Year" award.

The newly formed BAAD (Black Alumni Advancing Divestment) now joins BSCAR (Black Student Coalition Against Racism) and the hopefully now-defunct ARRRMS (Association for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Students) in the quest for the most creative arrangement of letters to represent a group's name.

But don't let the cute title fool you; BAAD may kick up enough dust to make the University Board of Trustees choke on its decision not to divest all holdings in South Africa-related companies.

BAAD has vowed to fight the University's minority recruitment efforts and discourage alumni from donating money to Penn State because of the University's non-divestment decision. The group even plans to form an alumni alliance with political leaders in Harrisburg that will block state appropriations to the University.

These are very formidable goals, especially for a group that is only a few months old and whose core consists of only seven University alumni. But many great ideas have humble beginnings.

Within BAAD lies a great opportunity to expand the divestment campaign from the front of Willard Building where the shanties once stood to the homes of Penn State alumni who may believe it is time for the University to place its moral responsibility ahead of its fiduciary one.

However, the real potential of BAAD and other pro-divestment groups, such as BSCAR and the Committee for Justice in

South Africa, lies in the concentration of their efforts into a massive, well-coordinated all-or-nothing campaign against the University's steadfast refusal to divest.

In other words, BAAD should not consider itself just another organization fighting for a common goal; it must realize its vitality as an integral piece in the total divestment puzzle. It must be willing to work with other groups to create a united front.

BAAD and other groups have many common goals. If they worked together they could, for example, further hamper the University's already losing effort to recruit and retain black students.

And if they convinced enough alumni to vocally criticize the trustees' decision, they could have a devastating effect on one of Penn State's lifelines for financial support.

Don't be fooled: The abhorrent system of apartheid still exists and the atrocities remain. Blacks in South Africa are still being repressed and are still fighting and dying for their rights.

And now, with the formation of BAAD and the united efforts of other pro-divestment groups, perhaps the divestment struggle at Penn State will gain enough momentum to break the Board of Trustees' stoic non-divestment stance.

If the group can garner enough support from Penn State graduates, the board may realize that a majority of people associated with Penn State — not just a few students, professors and the daily student newspaper — want the University to divest all stocks in companies doing business with South Africa and finally take a strong stand against the morally unacceptable policy of apartheid.



Seat belts laws

Education instead of legislation is needed to protect more lives

Some state legislators are proposing a bill that would make it illegal to drive a passenger vehicle in Pennsylvania without wearing a properly fastened seat belt. Violators would be fined up to \$20.

Should our state government pass such a law? Definitely not!

If it did, the next law that legislators propose could be anything from quit smoking or lower our calorie intake.

Both smoking and overeating — like not wearing a seat belt — are hazardous to our health. It's for our own good, they argue, but so are a lot of other things.

We're supposed to be adults or at least responsible for our own well-being. Do we need the government to play "mommy" for us as well?

We can all use good information and advice. A state-sponsored program educating us about seat belts, not a law, would serve us better.

The government should advertise the Highway Users Federation information that says only 15 percent of Americans use their seatbelts regularly, yet that alone saves 1,800 lives a year. The federation predicts that about 10,000 lives would be saved if 80 percent of the people would use seat belts.

The government should publicize the study done by doctors at the University of Colorado Medical School which showed that in car crashes with identical conditions — severity, car size, road conditions, etc. — the unbuckled occupant was five times as likely to die and three times as likely to be injured as the person wearing the seat belt.

Educating instead of legislating will eliminate the inadequacies in the seat belt law. For example, the safety belt bill states that violators would not be fined unless they were stopped on another violation like speeding.

If, when they appeared before the magistrate or judge, they were acquitted of the first charge, the charge of not wearing a seat belt would also be dropped. Many people still might choose not to wear seat belts and will not be fined.

Other states' safety belt laws contain so many conditions and exceptions that their laws become weak and hard to enforce.

California's law is void if air bags aren't also made mandatory. Nevada's law doesn't take effect unless the federal government permits a 70 mph speed limit. Texas is still arguing over who's included in the law. Its legislators



reader opinion

Penn State fan

On Oct. 11, I received a parking ticket while attending the Penn State-Cincinnati game. I don't mind the ticket, but I dislike being singled out for being from Ohio. The lot I was parked in had probably 25 or 30 cars with Pennsylvania plates with expired meters, but no tickets. Just a coincidence, I guess.

We had Pennsylvania friends who parked in the same lot and they were not ticketed. They came with us and left at the same time.

My son attends Penn State and is paying out-of-state tuition, which is considerably more than in-state. Do campus police treat all "out-of-staters" like this? I hope not!

We have become Penn State fans and expect to remain so in years to come. All Ohioans aren't the same.

Donald P. Britton
Vincent, Ohio resident

The truth

Rep. Bill Clinger before you go screaming unfair, politicking, you should re-examine your campaign and past records to see if you have been reading the correct documents.

This letter is in response to your radio advertisements which demand an apology from Bill Wachob on the charge that he lied about you receiving campaign dollars from the oil, gas and chemical industries.

"He has insulted me and my family," Clinger cries. Oh come now, do you really think that your family was the target of Wachob's statement? I do not believe that the voters see any correlation in your outcry either.

It is true you have received more than \$100,000 in campaign contributions from big oil, gas and chemical

political action committees. This says something to me — if these big industries are supporting you, you must be supporting them!

And this is in fact very true: since 1980, Clinger, as a congressman, has voted against a special tax on oil companies that would have forced them to pay \$3.1 billion for toxic waste cleanup, against a tax reform package to close massive oil and gas industry loopholes, thus allowing many companies to escape paying income taxes, and for widespread exemptions in the Oil and Gas Windfall Profits Tax.

Anyone who has difficulty believing this only need check the Congressional Record or Federal Election Committee documents.

What has Clinger's votes to protect out-of-state companies accomplished for us? Well, it has cost the government and taxpayers billions in revenues. Not a very good record for a man who tells us that reducing the deficit is his top priority, is it?

Clinger's supporters have tried to equate the damage by pointing out all the PAC contributions Wachob has received for his campaign.

These contributions, however, came from such groups comprised of teachers, senior citizens, environmentalists and steel and iron workers. These are the people that Wachob represents and supports.

Wachob does not represent Texas — he represents us — the people of Pennsylvania. So maybe in some respect, Clinger was right — Wachob did fail to tell voters the entire truth. He forgot to mention whose side Clinger is really on.

Kenneth Hong
sophomore-economics

What's wrong?

Mr. Clinger, why do you support The Freedom Fighters so bold and nice.

As to giving them more dough, I wish you'd think twice.

You've jumped on the anti-drug wagon, I see.

Loss of freedom for all, will this effect me?

That fatherly image is mighty confusing.

When you send missiles a'crusing, when you wrapped yourself in red, white and blue.

Is a coating of patriotism all you have going for you?

You've voted against sanctions, for them, and abstained too.

It makes me wonder what's wrong with you!

Jessica Stern
non-degree student

Deceptions

Bill Wachob recently said he was "not familiar" with what the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy is now or had been for more than 30 years. I thought I'd seen it all, but surprises were still to come.

Shortly prior, the Wachob campaign gave up its futile attempt to make students think Bill Clinger had been cutting student aid. It had been made public that as a congressman, Clinger had voted in favor of every one of the 12 Education Appropriation Bills that came to the House floor, and that these votes resulted in major increases in student aid.

Now I find one of the most poorly written and deceptive letters I've ever seen, appeared word-for-word a second time in *The Daily Collegian*.

Bob Hyneman
sophomore-foreign relations

the daily Collegian
Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1986
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Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.



opinions

Please write

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and area residents concerning issues and topics of interest to the Collegian's readership. With the semester approaching the halfway point, many important issues confront the University.

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, 9:30 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.

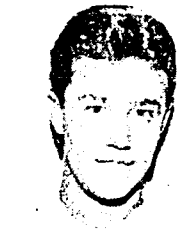
All writers should provide their address, phone number and social security number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

The opinion editors 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.

Due to the number of letters received, the Collegian cannot guarantee that all letters will be published.

Bad dreams:

An excursion to 1988 when down and out actors run for the U.S. presidency



It used to be that well-known celebrities would retire to comfortable condos in Malibu or impressive mansions in Beverly Hills. With the occasional exception of a Barbara Walters interview or a guest appearance on "Fantasy Island," these stars of the past would lead relatively quiet lives.

But all this has changed. Today many celebrities set their sights on America's most respected home — the White House.

Yes, Hollywood is "going Washington!" at an increasingly alarming rate. Ronald Reagan was the first to trade the limelight for the political spotlight and recently Clint Eastwood, Harry Eastwood, and Fred Grandy, widely known as Gopher on "The Love Boat," have followed in his footsteps. Eastwood has been elected mayor in Carmel, Calif., and Grandy is running for office in Iowa.

This trend is understandable, due to the fact that politics these days are 95 percent acting, yet just because they are understandable doesn't mean they're acceptable.

In our TV-dominated society, a person who has had a great deal of public exposure has a distinct advantage over a lesser known opponent. Clint Eastwood could be a die-hard Communist, but unknowledgeable citizens might still vote for him based solely on the fact that he's famous.

This trend really has me worried, political elections may soon become popularity contests. The presidential elections are just two years away. One has to wonder what overgrown, unqualified celebrity will run for office, or, if he'll win.

These thoughts were weighing heavily on

my mind the other day as I watched the news on the HUB's crowded dining areas. The previous night of intense procrastination had left me exhausted and Dan Rather's voice was effectively performing as a sleep aid.

I dozed off just as Rather was giving an update on possible presidential candidates for 1988. Much to my dismay Rather's report continued in my dream.

Due to the success of former actor and current president, Ronald Reagan, several prominent celebrities had announced their intentions of running for the presidency.

Pat Robertson, of "The 700 Club" fame, has officially announced that he will be a presidential candidate in 1988. Political analysts agree that Robertson may be a front-runner, due in great part to his extraordinary talents.

These talents range from faith healing to controlling the elements (last year Robertson took personal credit for Hurricane Gloria missing the Virginia coast). Rumors are also circulating that Robertson is faster than a

steam locomotive and is able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

Robertson is projected to do well in hurricane prone areas and is expected to monopolize the vote of street corner preachers.

Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead has also ascending on a long strange trip towards the Oval Office. Garcia is expected to select longtime pal, David Crosby, of Crosby, Stills and Nash as his running mate.

Garcia's campaign will primarily be based on a complex plan which would focus on divesting American funds in South Africa and in turn investing them in various businesses in Colombia and Brazil.

While Dead Heads are campaigning vigorously throughout the United States, sceptics are questioning how Garcia will fair on his mandatory drug test. When questioned on the subject Garcia replied, "hey man, I just say snow, I mean, no."

A woman is also beginning to generate support in her quest for the presidency. Yanna White has made it clear that she has intentions on running for the highest office in the nation. While, and running mate Pat Sajak, have already mapped out a tough, no nonsense, foreign policy that will primarily be based on the "Wheel of Fortune" concept.

Each vowel will cost world leaders one political prisoner, and contestants will compete for prizes such as nuclear warheads and vacation-summits at exotic resorts. White has stressed that she would continue doing the grueling job she knows best — turning these letters as Pat shouts em' out.

My already turbulent dream suddenly

turned into a full-fledged nightmare. You guessed it — Ronald Reagan runs for a third term. He mumbled "to really comprehend Star Wars you gotta see the movie."

Meanwhile, Rather calmly explained that Reagan had the constitutional amendment reversed which prevented any president from serving more than two terms.

I woke up screaming "no, no, it can't be, it just can't be!" I sat there in a pool of cold sweat staring up at a sea of strange faces.

In an attempt to explain myself I blurted that "we need to elect people who have vast political experience. Someone who has spent time studying the Democratic system, and has comprehensive knowledge of both domestic and foreign affairs. We need a president who will respect the rights of individuals, while also being able to cater to the needs of big business. Just because someone is a celebrity does not mean they will perform well in the political spectrum. Political elections must not turn into popularity contests."

The group looked at me with a mixture of confused and concerned faces. I vaguely heard hushed whispers: "Wow, I think this guy's delirious." "Yeah, I know, doesn't he realize this is the 1980s?"

A sympathetic woman patted me softly on the head and cooed, "Oh my, what you just said does sound awful, but just relax and remember it was only a dream, just a terribly bad dream."

Scott Westcott is a junior majoring in English and is a columnist for the Daily Collegian.

ASPIRING LAWYERS

On Wednesday, October 22, Mr. Robert Clodfelter from Wake Forest University Law School will be on campus from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

If you would like an appointment with Mr. Clodfelter to discuss law at Wake Forest University please contact the Political Science Department at 865-7515, or in room 107 Burrows Building between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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