

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1986

## editorial opinion

### The games superpowers play

Why not make it an Olympic sport? The United States and Soviet Union enjoy playing "Boot the Diplomat" so much, it wouldn't be surprising if the contest was incorporated into the 1988 Summer Games, to be held right after the final heavyweight boxing match.

Certainly, the two superpowers would find participating in the event — hailed by some officials as an exciting spectator sport — to their advantage. Both have had enough practice to assure a two-way race for the gold medal.

The two countries have held a vigorous exhibition match against one another in recent weeks. The Soviets have expelled 10 American diplomats and withdrawn 260 Soviet cooks, maids, drivers and other domestic workers employed at the U.S. embassy and the U.S. consulate in Leningrad.

Moscow's action was in retaliation for the United States' decision to expel 80 Soviets — including 25 United Nations envoys — from Washington, New York and San Francisco, which was in response to the arrest of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff, which was a reprisal for the arrest of Gennadiy Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the U.N. Secretariat.

Moscow and Washington have taken so many turn-around retaliations, neither side is sure which direction it's facing anymore. The whole situation has left the American public in a dizzy daze, wondering if perhaps Olga the Dancing Bear or the vacationing Herb and Edna Johnson will be the next ones expelled.

Both countries insist their actions were necessary to make the other side realize that the expulsion of diplomats is inexcusable and will not go unpunished.

Not only are these actions unbelievably infantile, they are outright hypocritical and achieve absolutely nothing except to give paranoid officials the impression their country has gained the upper hand on the other.

But in an attempt to ease the strains of the expulsions, American officials have conceded that the United States and the Soviet Union have now achieved "parity" in the situation.

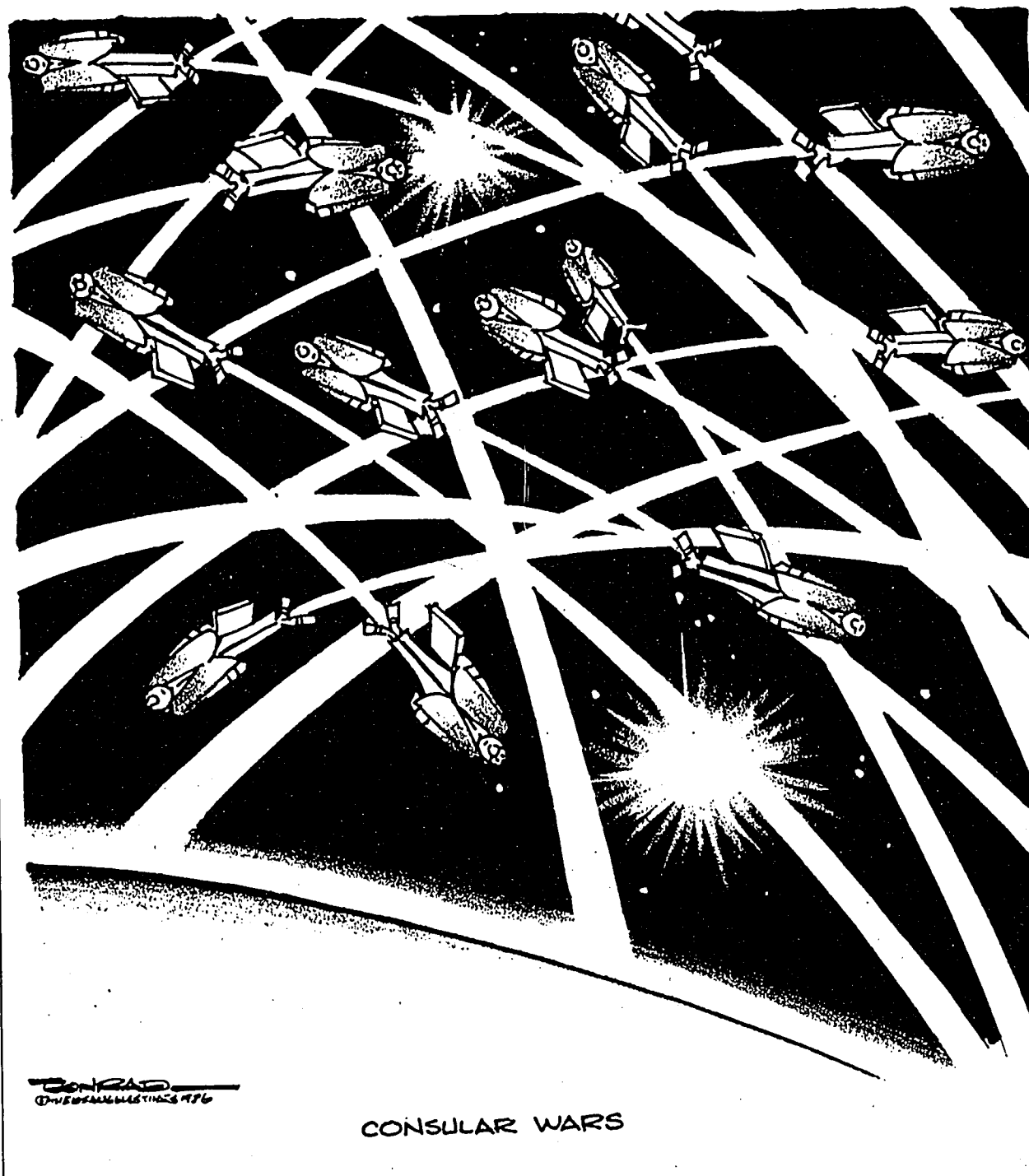
Insanity is more like it.

Using diplomats as pawns in a game of superpower tit-for-tat is nothing more than a ridiculous attempt by both sides to intimidate each other.

Instead of worrying so much about retaliation and saving face in a stupid game of politics, both countries should be more concerned with easing tensions and trying to revive the flickering hope of accord which was sparked at the Iceland summit.

With the stalemate at the summit still fresh in everyone's mind, it is dismaying to see American and Soviet leaders already at each other's throats. These latest developments clearly exemplify the need for a better understanding.

But for the two superpowers, it's obviously more fun to abuse diplomats than to put aside minor differences and tackle the real challenge of reaching a new level of agreement.



CONSULAR WARS

## reader opinion

### Eco-Action

Those of us at Eco-Action would like to thank everyone who brought glass bottles and aluminum cans to the recycling center in Parking Lot 83.

We must close the center on Nov. 1 since water collects in the cans and freezes.

Please do not leave any trash at the center over the winter months. The center will re-open in the Spring.

We would like to remind anyone bringing bottles out to the center on or before Nov. 1 to please separate the bottles by color (clear, brown and green) and to remove any neck rings.

Christopher Niemitz  
treasurer-Eco-Action

### Human rights

I was very unhappy with the quality of coverage of Human Rights Day by reporter Susan Kearney.

After careful investigation of the facts, I decided to write to you this letter clarifying the alleged controversy of the event.

In The Daily Collegian article on Thursday, Oct. 23, a great effort has been provided to show controversy of the event while there was no mention of who participated, what was dealt with, or what were the achievements of the event.

The reporter, in a thrust of excitement for gossip, missed the whole point of the day.

Thus, no mention was made regarding the wonderful efforts of Osama Lassowski who staged a very informative display on the plight of the Ukrainian people.

Not a word was said about the one hour and half slide show presented by Don Rallis about South Africa.

In short, the readers have no clue that on Oct. 22, participants in the event effectively presented the violation of human rights in nine areas of the world, grouping more than 200 million people.

Such omissions made most participants in the event very unhappy and, in my judgment, disqualify the article as meeting minimal quality requirements for reporting.

However, in terms of responsibility for blame, this is where the innocence of the reporter stops and where the machiavellian contribution of Yachad starts.

Two days before the event, Yachad with the collaboration of the Undergraduate Student Government Minority Affairs co-director, Jennifer Bolden decided to wave a strong political effort to discredit the purpose and scope of Human Rights Day.

Thus, Yachad and Bolden claim that I did not extend an invitation to new participants on a minority panel meeting two weeks ago.

However, the fact is that the Pakistan Forum organization has accepted the invitation to participate in Human Rights Day in that meeting.

Also, Bolden and Yachad made public statements affirming that the program was biased (as opposed to narrow) and that mainly South Africa and the Palestine were presented.

It is sad that Yachad carried out such a subversive effort because it found out two days prior to the event that the Palestinian human rights concerns would be covered.

It is sad that Yachad assumes the public should not have the right to learn about any human rights abuse in the world.

In the strong academic context where we live, everyone has a duty to

be tolerant so that we could all learn and grow.

It is why, if Yachad and Bolden are ready to present due apology to the committee and the participants in Human Rights Day, I would certainly extend my willingness to genuinely cooperate in the future.

Chaquir Achabar  
chairman  
Human Rights Day committee

### Issues?

Just when I think The Daily Collegian Board of Opinion is maturing and beginning to write about ISSUES, they are insulted by something that seems to have completely passed them by.

Apparently, a political advertisement insulted their intelligence. I heard the author of the advertisement explain the reason for the format.

He said he tried to choose an amusing way to draw attention to the funding disparity between the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State.

This candidate also set forth a solid plan to try to achieve parity in the form of a Penn State Coalition.

Does the Board of Opinion realize this is an ISSUE in this campaign? Has the board spent any of its ink of thought on evaluating this ISSUE?

It is a sad state of affairs when a candidate trying to bring some humor into a campaign is accused of mudslinging.

Please in the future try to see the ISSUES in advertising rather than just standing on your soapbox and spouting off.

Jean McGinley  
sophomore-business

## Orwellian ugliness:

Political candidates should remember that rating records is still an issue during this election

If you ask Bill Wachob, he'll tell you record-album rating isn't outright censorship, so it's okay. He said so during a recent interview on the campus radio station, WPSU. He also said he didn't think it was a problem and indicated he doesn't think it's an issue worthy of much concern.

Maybe record-album rating is of little concern to Wachob, but I'm concerned and certain that significant numbers of other music-loving, record-buying students are also concerned.

It's astounding that Wachob could so casually dismiss this issue, considering that he was in WPSU's studio, sharing space with shelf after shelf of record albums (many of them rock albums) and he was on campus, where albums and tapes are as much a part of a typical student's life as textbooks and the bags they're carried in.

I may vote for Wachob, but I've grown hesitant since he expressed his views on record-rating. Will his views on other issues be as superficial? If he thinks slapping



rating-labels on record albums is acceptable because it isn't outright censorship, he's wrong.

Whether it's subtle or outright, it's still censorship; and it's not acceptable in a free society. Attempts to censor any kind of art should cause us great alarm — especially if it's an art form that loudly criticizes society, politics and politicians as freely as rock music often does. The effort to impose a mandatory rating-system on rock albums is pure Orwellian ugliness masquerading as

parental concern.

It's spearheaded by Tipper Gore, who conveniently has a husband (Sen. Albert Gore) sitting on the Senate Communications Subcommittee — the committee that held the September 1985 record-label hearings.

The effort also resembles a miniature of Nancy Reagan's hobby, the war on drugs at any cost — a decency crusade where the end (saving the citizens from themselves) justifies the means (trashing civil liberties).

If Tipper Gore and her organization, the Parents Music Resource Center, succeed in their goals, we can expect disappearances to ensue.

First, certain record albums will disappear from the record stores. Record producers will be wary of producing albums by artists whose music is likely to be rated X (for sexually explicit lyrics), Y (for lyrics that espouse or describe violence) or O (for "occult" or "satanic" content). And if printing lyrics on album covers becomes

mandatory, artists may be forced into self-censorship in order to get their works produced and released.

Albums with the stigma of a negative rating may also go unrecorded and uncanceled by record stores. Ultra-liberal or highly profit-oriented store owners are no less likely to carry negatively rated albums: not when threatened with boycotts or picket lines outside their stores — the same tactics that the Meese Commission recommended for use in combating anything deemed pornographic.

Beyond slimming the record racks by de facto (but not outright) censorship, the PMRC would like warning labels on tickets to rock concerts. Thus, certain rock artists will be disappearing from concert schedules.

Artists with "bad" ratings and "bad" names can anticipate being passed over by various bookings agencies or concert halls — especially if rumor has it that violence or picketing are imminent.

All this just because of a few little labels? Very probable. Movie-rating has compromised the artistic integrity of motion pictures, but their case has a difference: motion picture studios have long held every aspect of their industry in tight control, but music producers have not.

Also, no movie can make a personal appearance with other movies in order to make a political statement ("Sun City") or raise funds (Live Aid). Further, labeling films doesn't prejudice people against the artists who make them like labeling records will prejudice the artists who make them.

Record rating and labeling is an issue. Wachob would be wise to educate himself on this issue before Nov. 4, for the sake of the music and freedom loving people whom he wishes to make his constituents.

Albert Blasch is a senior majoring in journalism and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His column appears every other Wednesday.

## opinions

### Senate 1986: The Class of 1980 is up for re-election and running for their political lives

It was one of the most well-oiled, financed and bitter campaigns in the history of politics.

In 1980, the Democrats controlled the U.S. Senate 59-41. With the likes of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the late Sen. Frank Church as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Democrats were looking in earnest to holding the chamber they had held since 1954.

But, disaster struck the party of Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy.

Thanks to the National Conservative Political Action Committee, the Republicans put on a fierce, expensive and often ruthless campaign for the Senate and in the end, captured the upper chamber of Congress.

In the process, they dethroned some of the Senate's most revered statesmen: George McGovern, Birch Bayh, Warren Magnuson and Church, who were all swamped by virtual unknowns.

And with Ronald Reagan snatching the presidency away from Jimmy Carter, the country was singing and dancing to the Republican tune.

Now the Class of 1980 is up for re-election, and in an ironic twist of fate, they find themselves running for their political life.

For the Republicans, this is no cakewalk. They now hold a 53-47 advantage in the Senate, but with less than a week remaining in the campaign many Republican incumbents are in trouble.

The Democrats need to win four seats



Chris Loder

next Tuesday to take control of the Senate. In the next six days, the nation will see how long Reagan's coattails really are.

What would a Democratic Senate mean? Well, it would mean Reagan may face the roughest two years of his presidency.

His potential judicial nominations, run through the Judiciary Committee, will be bottled up by possible chairman Sen. Joseph Biden.

The Democrat from Delaware is in stark contrast to the current chairman, crusty conservative Strom Thurmond.

Reagan's foreign policy, given the blank check in his first six years, will be scrutinized, checked and slashed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, most likely to be chaired by Sen. Claiborne Pell, the Democratic dove from Rhode Island.

So, in a campaign that has been more negative, less issue-oriented and more personal in recent memory, the Democrats and Republicans have six days to rip each other

on such issues as attendance records, Star Wars and the federal deficit.

As it stands now, the Democrats should pick up Republican-controlled seats in Maryland, Florida and Nevada.

Their best chance is in Maryland, where Barbara Mikulski has a comfortable lead over former Civil Rights Commission chief Linda Chavez.

But the Democrats are not totally out of the woods either. In fact, Democratic candidates in Colorado, Louisiana and Missouri are in serious trouble of losing Democratic-controlled seats.

In Colorado, Republican Ken Kramer trailed opponent Timothy Wirth early on, but with the help of Reagan and Wirth's wishy-washiness on the Strategic Defense Initiative, Kramer has made this campaign too close to call.

The two are vying for the seat held by Sen. Gary Hart, who is running for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination.

So, if there's a tradeoff, where will the Democrats pick up their four seats?

A close examination shows the 1986 races will be decided in four of the most unloved and unlikely states: South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho and Washington. In those states, Republicans must beware of the old Satchel Paige adage: "Don't look back. Something may be gaining on you."

In South Dakota, Sen. James Abdnor, who beat George McGovern in 1980, is in a tight race with upstart Thomas Daschle, who has been hammered away at Abdnor's stand on the farm issue (the senator supports farmers selling their prices below the market price). Meanwhile, Abdnor, 63, has painted Daschle as a liberal who is out of the mainstream in South Dakota.

In North Dakota, Sen. Mark Andrews, despite outpacing his opponent 2-1, is behind in his re-election bid against Kent Conrad.

Conrad, like Bob Edgar in Pennsylvania, has tried to portray his opponent as an inconsistent senator who has voted two different ways on a particular issue.

Labeled the "King of Pork," by Time magazine, Andrews has run on his record, which includes bringing industry and jobs to North Dakota.

In Idaho, a state best known for its potatoes, John Evans leads Sen. Steve Symms in a battle between two of the state's most popular politicians.

The issue here is the sluggish economy, which is decisively below the national average.

Finally, there's the bitter race in Washington between Sen. Slade Gorton and former Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

What would a Democratic Senate mean? Well, it would mean Reagan may face the roughest two years of his presidency.

Gorton once held a commanding lead in the polls, but Adams has come on strong and has been buoyed by Gorton's admission that he traded his vote on a key nomination in favor of a judicial appointment from Washington.

Indeed, it is my belief that the race for control of the Senate will be determined in these four states.

With six days left to go, the Democrats are out of time and money. For them to win, the Democrats must go on the attack — not just with words but with ideas. They must make the federal deficit, the largest in the history of the republic, an issue and they must force the Republicans to say what they would do to curb the deficit (in addition to Gramm-Rudman). They must also hammer away at local issues, such as the economy in Idaho and the farm issue in South Dakota.

If not, the Democrats may be forced into a must-win situation in 1988.

Chris Loder is a senior majoring in journalism and a sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

## the Collegian

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1986  
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Students' letters should include semester standing, major and campus address. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation. The writer's address and phone number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request. The Collegian 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 of all the letters it receives.



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# Gatsby's

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

A Night of TERROR

Thursday  
October 30th

Raising the Dead With

## TICKAPOO BRAIN

9:30-1:30

\$2.00 Cover Charge  
Doors Open at 8 p.m.  
Must Have Recognizable I.D.

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# Happy 99¢

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