opinions

editorial opinion

The real thing

The problem behind the W-4 is that Con- They should do what Coca-Cola did when gress is demanding this more exact esti- the public rebelled against its "new Coke" a plate.

prise, Congress, Treasury Secretary James public well enough for so many years. Baker and the IRS should cut their losses.

Overboard

No. 8 in the American Bill of Rights is a than four tons of cocaine, jumped \$5.5 million bond would be excessive. A few weeks ago, a Colombian national, facing trial in Florida for importing more

mate as drastic revisions of the tax code couple of years ago. They should ditch the take effect. . . . That makes about as much new W-4 entirely, reinstitute the 80 percent sense as, well, serving a soft drink in a withholding estimate and restore something as close as possible to the "classic" Instead of pursuing this doomed enter- two-page withholding form that served the The Dispatch, Union, New Jersey

provision against holding a prisoner under million bond. . . . Law is properly rooted in 'excessive bail." Even discounting the dol- tradition and precedent. But it must stay lar's diminished value over 200 years, all of current with reality. When dealing with our founding fathers would agree that a \$5.5 criminals to whom a few million dollars is a laugh, maybe it should think of billion-dollar bails.

this nation.

The Tulsa Tribune

Overstepping bounds

U.S. District Judge W. Brevard Hand has The textbooks were questioned, in part, far, far overstepped the bounds of judicial for the valid reason that they made little or authority in banning 45 textbooks from no mention of the role of religion, or several general use in the public schools of Ala- religions, in the formation and continuity of bama.

Hand's ruling defines as religion a set of But that is a matter for the people and non-religious practices and beliefs that are their public school establishments at the poorly defined, even by avowed practition- state and local level to take up. It is not a ers, as secular humanism.

His is not a sensible definition, and it or assert that the irreligious practices of seems certain to be struck down as if by others constitute a religion. lightning by a higher court.

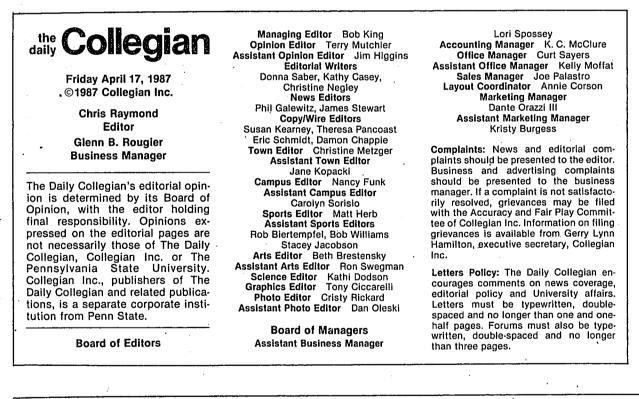
Being blunt

become notorious. While his decision surely will be over-

Let's be blunt about this. The decision by turned, it could wreak havoc for educators U.S. District Judge W. Brevard Hand to everywhere in the meantime. ... He has purge Alabama public schools of textbooks offered temporary encouragement to litialleged to promote "secular humanism" is gious book-banners from coast to coast. bizarre, yet unsurprising. The judge's ec- Their cases ultimately will fail. But until centric ideas on freedom of religion have they do, the shadow of legal action will harass and intimidate countless schools. - The Atlanta Constitution

place for a judge to interject his own beliefs

- The Knoxville Journal, Knoxville, Tenn





"WERE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN."

reader opinion

Saving lives

worked to make the American Cancer Society's Daffodil abolish discrimination, yet the discrimination now occurs Days such a success. This delightful event will net against white males of society. This is not right. approximately \$20,000 toward American Cancer Society Affirmitive Action began so minorities such as Blacks programs of research, education and patient services. and Hispanics could receive preference in an employ-Deserving of special thanks are the folks at: Federal ment opportunity over a White person. Now, females may Express, Hickey Beverage, Nastase Beverage, students legally receive promotions over White males. and staff from Penn's Valley, Bald Eagle, State College and Bellefonte schools, Sally and Jed Doyle, Mary Beth Soon, older people are going to be able to aquire a job Carlin, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, over a younger person. Next, the Gay Community may Dottie Weaverling, Marty Donoughue, Doris Raup, Diana demand that homosexuals be given Affirmative Action and Paul Dietrich, The Senior Citizens of Centre Hall, In any case, young, white males, like myself, have a State College, Snow Shoe and Bellefonte, Jim Farwell, the reason to be concerned. Centre Daily Times, Margaret Burris, Jane Moore, Barbara Vandermark, all of our wonderful delivery volunteers, and those of you who bought or sold our beautiful golden daffodils. It is worth remembering during April, Cancer Control

Month, that the daffodil is the American Cancer Society's symbol of hope — the hope of wiping out cancer in our lifetime. This can only be accomplished through the continuation of our research and education programs which are

supported by events such as Daffodil Days and and the April Residential Crusade. We deeply appreciate Centre County's tremendous response and involvement in our on-going cancer control efforts. Together we will save lives!

Irene Gelman President Centre County Unit, American Cancer Society Straw Men!

The end?

well it should be. It is my belief that the courts are getting all the days of thy life. carried away with the implimentation of Affirmitive From a manuscript discovered Action in the work force. In a recent decision, the court declared public agencies could promote a qualified woman over a more qualified

True Gert

The Daily Collegian presents "Dear but you seem so intelligent, I hope you won't ing letters-to-the-editor debating the exis- can never know what another person really just one thing, either. It's that my mother tence of God as there is in writing letters-to- is. But I don't think I could convince some- drinks, it's that my father beats her. It's Gert." the woman with all the answers. mind if we ask you something just for

doesn't know how people cannot like jazz, really been debating this question, so we how Reagan and Nixon got elected, since no thought we would ask you. What exactly is it one will admit to voting for them, or how to that USG does? Do they really do anything, spell "onomatopoeia." So now you know or do they just talk a lot about what they what not to ask her.



Questions for Gert can be sent to the Collegian care of Angela Vietto, who really needed the week off to finish an important and time consuming project. (She's helping with a study on the effects of taped presidential speeches on rats — it is hoped the researchers will soon develop a mind-numbing weapon more effective than chemical warfare. But she'll be back next week.) . . .

Dear Gert,

Well, almost all the answers. She still general information. My friends and I have need to do and how hard everything is? Mystified in McElwain

> Dear Mystified Good question. I suppose we shouldn't be too hard on them, since their hands are basically tied in those same ropes that tie them to the University, but I do find it amusing that everyone worries so much about who's elected, since I can't think of any significant way any of them could affect my life. Maybe a philosophy course is in order. Sorry, I don't really know all the mysteries of the universe.

> Dear Gert I have a nasty problem, and I thought maybe you could help me with it. I know God exists, and I want to tell everyone about it. 4 keep writing these letters to The Collegian, but they don't seem to be changing anybody's mind. What should I do next? Believer in Brumbaugh

Dear Believer. I know your column is mainly for advice, page. There's about as much point in writ- hours and hours and thinking about how you more than anything like that. And it's not day.

the-editor about whether or not the refriger- one of that who believes that the meaning of that people kill other people and get away ator light stays on when you shut the door, life is using chemicals to make the light with it, and 14-year-old girls kill old women or about how boneless chickens walk.

stand out on the street and scream your ute, or five BMWs and a build-it-yourself log a big joke, and that if I want to kill myself I head off. It's a time-honored tradition, and I cabin with easy access to a mall. So I don't ought to, since it'll just be one less person in don't think anyone has come up with any- try. thing else as effective. It doesn't change anyone's mind, but it'll make you feel like you're doing something, and if you do it long If you really think religion can be harmful Dear Anonymou enough, you'll probably start to feel like a martvr Dear Gert

I'm in a real jam. I've examined all the facts, and concluded that God does not exist. I've also determined that belief in God can be dangerous to your health, so I feel the need to enlighten the world. I've tried writing letters to The Collegian, but they don't seem to be changing anybody's mind. How can I make these fools wake up? Scientific in Shunk

Dear Scientific.

brighter and the colors more colored, or for 10 dollars to buy drugs. And when I try to If you still feel the need to convince people waking up next to a different person every talk to people, they just tell me to cheer up. of your beliefs, I guess the best idea is to morning in search of that perfect half-min- And there are even people who think it's all

> And I think your case is about as hopeless. I don't really know what to tell you, either.

metimes I start to think how easy it would you? Keep God out of the opinion page. It's an be if I just didn't have to wake up tomorrow. old argument, sort of like the meaning of My problems aren't exactly trivial, I don't Angela Vietto is a sophomore majoring in life. I might think that the meaning of life think - it's not like I'm failing a class or my English and is a columnist for The Daily First of all, keep God out of the opinion can be discovered by staring at the sky for boyfriend left me or anything. It's so much Collegian. Her column appears every Fri-

to your health, maybe you should take your I think that first of all, they're wrong. It's findings to the surgeon general. I suppose not a joke. It does matter. I also think that you could try street preaching. Maybe you life is hard, but the jokers who would have could make it a street debate. Or just read you believe that there's nothing but death about all the lonely atheists and agnostics of and destruction are wrong too. I think you history. This could probably make you feel need to get professional help. I think you very dignified and intellectual, and possibly need to find a way to see that there's more convince you to be satisfied with just believ- than what you think to life before you make any kind of final decision. And I think you need to remember that people who would I've got a problem, I don't know if you can tell you that killing yourself is a joke probahelp or not, but I thought it couldn't hurt to bly don't deserve to be alive anyway, but try. I've been really depressed lately, and you don't see them committing suicide, do

ing what you believe. Dear Gert.

The Daily Collegian Friday, April 17, 1987

white man even if the agency had not previously engaged A million thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who Affirmitive Action was originally brought about to

> Where does it end? Charles Gray

freshman-liberal arts

Mish mush

near the Carnegie Building by:

Understand!

Re: John Orr's Column of 4/16/87 Kreem uv Weet, the Divinity of Mush, has commanded me, his oracle, to commend you, John Orr, on your recent column. Thou hast fufilled Kreem's Commandments: 1. Thou Shalt Beg the Question!

2. Thou Shalt Oversimplify What Thou Refuseth to 3. Thou Shalt Hyperbolically Rely on Hyperbole!

4. Thou Shalt Belabor the Dead Horse! 5. Last, you have especially pleased Kreem's son, Scaircroe, by fufilling the Greatest Mush Commandment: Thou Shalt Love and Utilize Thy Brothers, The

Blessed be thou, John Orr, for thou has wasted much of thy readers' time and many trees that furnish newsprint. Affirmitive Action has been a recent topic of debate; as Well done! May thou dwell in Kreem's House of Sofistree

> **Randall Beeler** graduate-English

Armchair advice for all of those mystified readers and even the anonymous believers

the world. Maybe they're right. Maybe it doesn't matter. What do you think? Anonvmou

PSU astronauts say their dream is still alive

By BRAD GIBSON **Collegian Staff Writer**

For some, the dream of exploring space with complete safety disappeared in a fireball 74 seconds into the space shuttle Challenger's final mission. But two University alumni, both shuttle astronauts, still believe in that dream. Paul Joseph Weitz Jr., deputy director of the Johnson Space Center and a member of the crew that spent 28 days in Skylab in 1973, and Col. Guion Stewart "Guy" Bluford Jr., a mission specialist for the National Aeronautics

and Space Administration, believe the U.S. space program has infinite bounds. Neither man could describe his desire to fly in the shuttle. But the desire is there, and it is shared by many of the astronauts in the program.

"We could have found 10 crews to fly a week after the accident," said Weitz, a 1954 graduate with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering.

The future

open llam

Before the Challenger exploded, NASA had such program was a permanent, multipurpose space station. Program planners hoped to stimulate new

technologies, enhance space-based operational capabilities and help maintain the United States' leadership in space during the 1990s.

HISTORIC

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• Acceleration

Before the accident, the estimated date of deployment was the early 1990s. Though NASA has suffered significant setbacks, both alumni are still optimistic about NASA's future, which, Bluford said, has two main priorities.

The main goal is to get the shuttle flying again, said the 1964 aerospace engineering graduate. The second part is to develop a space "If we don't have a shuttle in the air there's

no reason for a space station and the space station program will die," Weitz said. The shuttle will also continue to provide

support for the Defense Department, though the department is moving away from relying on NASA, Bluford said. In a recent Congressional report, the Defense

Department — concerned about relying on the shuttle as the primary means of placing satellites in orbit - cited other means of achieving orbit, such as using expendable rockets and Titan II missiles. The department planned to launch four additional expendable vehicles per year, the report said. The shuttle's future is not meant to be used for commercial services, Weitz said, adding that NASA is cutting public services to entice planned to increase U.S. space technology. One the private sector to develop a separate shuttle program as a privately owned business. However, Weitz said he doesn't think cutting public services is the right way to go about building a private program.

The shuttle will be defense- and scienceoriented. Weitz said. Scientists want to use the

466-6865

space station for astronomy and biological exneriments

Costs of the program

about the costs of the space program, both financially and in terms of human life. Weitz said reducing NASA's budget, an idea debated in Washington, would be a mistake. NASA has an \$8 billion budget, or 0.8 percent of the national debt, he said, adding: "Most of the money doesn't go towards the shuttle. Ninety-two percent is used to pay wages." About 100,000 contract workers receive wages for working on the shuttle, and NASA

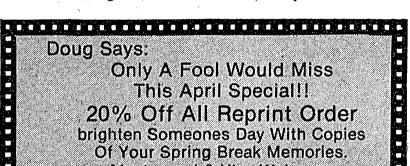
employs 25,000 workers. Cutting the budget would put many people out of work. Weitz said. The U.S. Senate proposed a bill in March 1986 that would allow NASA to accept donations for constructing a new orbiter, which would cost about \$2.4 billion. NASA is now not permitted to accept donations for a specific program. The accident also prompted a re-evaluation of NASA's goals. Before the disaster, the

26 to 32 fully loaded shuttle launches per year in the early 1990s A 32-launch schedule would include up to 10 launches for the planned space station, six to

Defense Initiative if deployed, and 11 for the Defense Department. The second half of the 1990s would bring a greater number of launches, the report said.

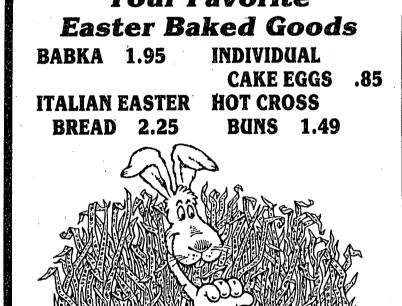
government estimated that NASA could make

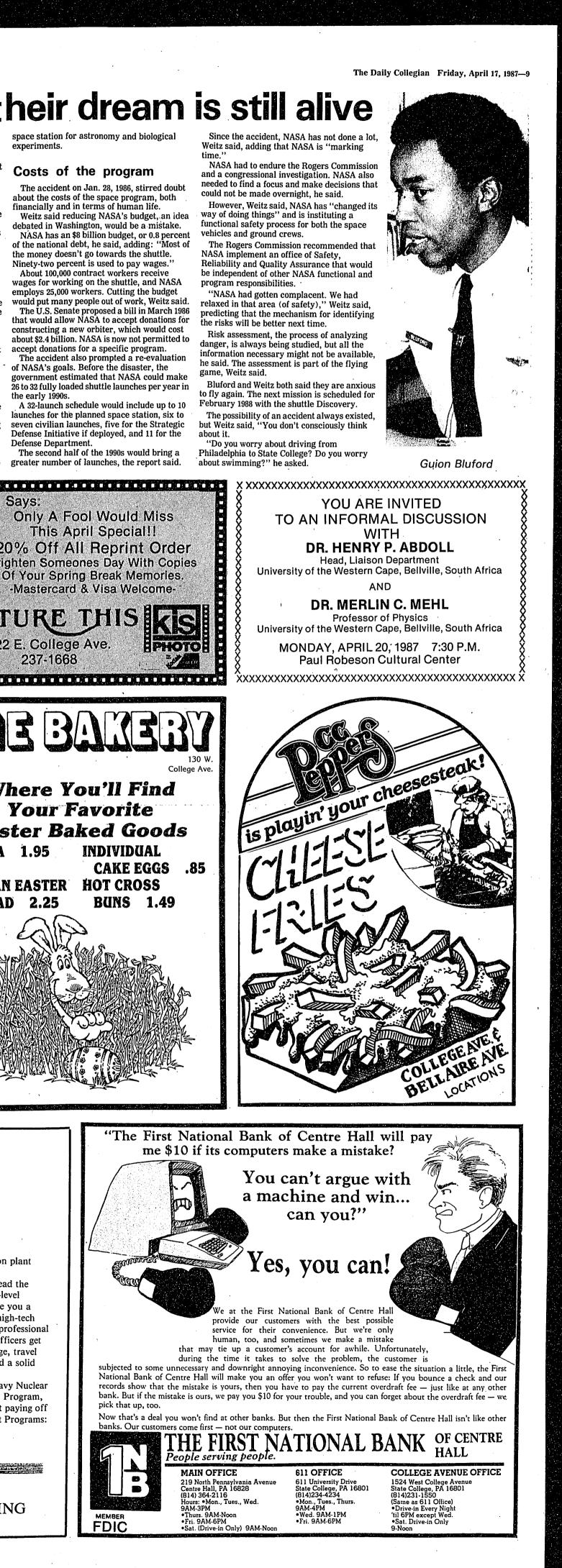
seven civilian launches, five for the Strategic



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