

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Monday, June 15, 1987

editorial opinion

Stalemate at the summit

In the aftermath of last week's economic summit in Venice, the prevailing sentiment among most observers appears to be one of disappointment.

Without question, the 13th annual gathering lived up to its billing as a grand parade of the world's most influential leaders, but to the disappointment of many, not one of those leaders succeeded in leaving his mark on the world's most pressing problems. After three days of discussion, the seven leaders departed Italy leaving nothing of substance — not for lack of anything concrete to discuss — but rather for their failure to agree on anything substantial.

Oh, they agreed that AIDS has become "one of the biggest potential health problems in the world" and they agreed to call for the dismantlement of the apartheid regime in South Africa, but they refused to take any concrete steps to combat those evils. They decided that declining economic growth rates and serious trade and economic pitfalls were problems but they were

unable to agree on which policies to pursue — only that action would be necessary "if future growth is insufficient."

As one observer aptly pointed out, the summit's economic conclusions were simply "policy objectives without commitments." The same can be said for the statements on international politics.

Sadly those measures were indicative of the direction the summit has taken in recent years. Britain's urbane foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe conceded this year that the summit simply provides a useful forum for "international group therapy." French President Francois Mitterrand concurred adding that "propaganda has edged out utility" as its primary purpose.

Perhaps next year, that will all change. Maybe then, the Summit Seven will recognize the futility of those objectives and they will leave for Toronto with conviction and a genuine interest in problem solving. If not, maybe they should carry out their correspondence by mail.

Worthy Words

"Man can will nothing unless he has first understood that he must count on no one but himself; that he is alone, abandoned on earth in the midst of his infinite responsibilities, without help."

— Jean Paul Sartre

Please Write

Are you angry at a recent editorial, article or column printed in The Daily Collegian and are your friends are thoroughly bored with the fact that you've reread it at dinner for the last three nights in a row?

Don't bore your friends or ruin a good dinner, write a letter-to-the-editor and let others in Happy Valley know what's on your mind.

The Daily Collegian welcomes let-

ters from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and area residents concerning current events and issues locally, nationally or internationally.

All letters should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than two pages. If you believe a topic merits more of an in-depth statement then you may submit a forum. Forums also should be typed, double-spaced, but may be up to three pages long.

Author or authors should include name, ID number, local address and telephone number on each letter. Writers should submit their letters in person to the Collegian office in 128 Carnegie during business hours, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Due to a large volume of letters, we cannot guarantee that all will be printed. Opinion Editor Meg Culhane reserves the right to edit letters for length and also hold letters that are judged libelous or in poor taste.



THE SMOKING REAGIN

reader opinion

Mandatory tests

Drug testing of professional athletes is a subject of controversy in our society. In light of the recent admissions of drug use by such talented athletes as Dwight Gooden and Lawrence Taylor, it is time that all professional sports adopt policies of mandatory drug testing.

Professional athletes are ascribed a high status in our society because of the nature of their profession.

By taking drug tests professional athletes would be delivering a powerful anti-drug message to the public, which could prevent many people from getting involved with drugs.

Although athletes may not realize it, drug testing would also eliminate any unnecessary danger from professional sports. There is enough risk of injury in professional sports without the presence of illegal substances. When a professional athlete uses illegal drugs immediately prior to competition, drug use is no longer a victimless crime.

The victims are teammates of the drug user, opposing competitors, and the paying fans who are deprived of seeing fair athletic competition. Drug testing could keep potentially dangerous athletes out of competition while preserving the quality and fairness of the game.

I am in favor of drug testing for athletes because of its many benefits. Drug testing could help individuals who would not voluntarily seek help for a drug problem. The knowledge that drug testing exists may also prevent some athletes from even experimenting with drugs.

All athletes at Penn State are asked to take a drug test,

which many feel violates an individual's privacy. As a team member, I will be tested sometimes in the future. Although the test may be an infringement on my personal rights, I will support the drug testing program because it can be of benefit on a large scale.

Claudia Karabedian
freshman-division of undergraduate studies

Phony image

In the June 7th issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* there was an article about the new Penn State logo which was brought on by a terrible crisis the school was having for fear of losing its identity to its image.

According to a Mr. Roger Williams, who titles himself the executive director of University relations, "Identity is a bit firmer concept than image — image can be oscillating and shimmering!"

As a long-in-the-tooth alumnus, who lived long enough to finally see the school called by its proper name "a University" instead of "the cow college," I "oscillate and shimmer" at the thought that some phony "corporate-identity-making" outfit bilged Penn State out of more than a few thousand to point us in the direction of the Dark Ages again! If you look at the Lion on the logo he's pointed that way and the old cat ain't happy about it!

Might not the money have been better spent on student aid or scholarships?

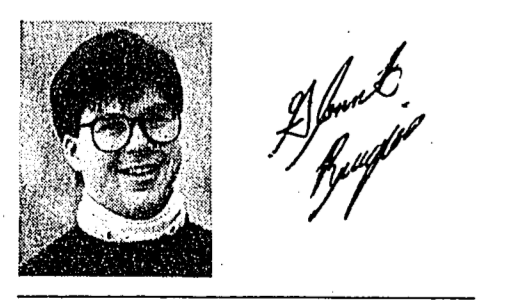
Samuel Gallu
Bucks County, Pa.

Discrimination

Breaking down stereotypical barriers is the first step to solving a problem that affects us all

Well it's that time again. What time you ask? Time for the news division to be crazy enough to allow me to write a column. I guess it's been long enough since the last column to forget about my writing credentials (or lack thereof).

On with the column.



Over the last semester as business manager of the Collegian and as a student, I have had many different experiences with people. Some good. Some bad. I was told that I would never succeed in business. Clients have called me things that I cannot print. Also, it has been said that I have "sold

out." The few comments that have been complimentary are the reasons why I still come to the Collegian office each morning.

No matter what was said, I was able to gain something positive from each experience. Whether I learned more about myself, the individual I was speaking with, or people in general — the fact is that I learned.

Recently, I had another experience in which a similar outcome occurred.

A good friend of mine and I had just seen the Celtics blow a 16-point lead to the Lakers in the final seconds of game four of the NBA Finals. Patrons soon began filing out of the bar and since I had lost the bet as badly as the Celtics had lost the game, I made my way past elated, dejected, and drunken fans to buy another pitcher of Bud.

As I sat back down at our table my friend and I tried to figure how and why the Celtics choked.

We soon exhausted that subject and moved into an area of conversation familiar to the both of us and to Penn State: discrimination.

We both agreed that: 1) the problem at

Penn State is wide spread and (2) occurs at both ends of the spectrum (that is, all persons experience it to some degree or another).

At Penn State, everyone is assigned a label. For example, when we first enter the University we are deemed freshmen and when we leave we are identified as alumni.

Well, the basis for these labels is fine when dealing with thousands of people. Grouping them aids in effectively managing and running Dear Old State.

Perhaps, you are now saying, "so what, here's a freshman, I'm Greek, she's fat but where does discrimination come into it?"

This is the point that is difficult to explain. My friend and I debated back and forth for about an hour trying to get to the bottom of the issue. As I said it is difficult to relate the point, but I will try.

It seems that here, at this University, everyone judges one another by using an established label. Attached to each label are a number of assumed characteristics. When a connection is made between a person and a label, the qualities that belong to the label

are automatically attached.

A problem occurs when the person making the connection refuses to associate with, or give a person a chance because of their own perceived prejudices of that person. Too many times people will refuse to speak with someone because of a stereotype. It happens to all of us, whether you're at a party, a bar, in a classroom, or on the street. When you bypass an opportunity to talk with someone because of their looks, clothes, or whatever, you have automatically assigned these stereotypes to the person's exterior characteristics.

Because this stereotyping occurs in the most basic circumstances, is it any wonder that there is such a problem with discrimination of minorities at this campus? If we have difficulty getting past whether or not a person is Greek or independent, freshman or sophomore, fat or slim, how are we ever going to eliminate the discrimination that occurs with blacks, women, and other minorities?

If people would try and ignore their instant indicators, perhaps this University

could make some progress. It seems so simple. We just stop comparing and judging. The most we would lose is time, but we gain a chance to break down the barriers that separate us. We could meet people we normally wouldn't because of the prejudices that usually separate us.

Most people seem to want to put an end to discrimination. Many ways to reach this end have been proposed, but it seems one answer is to stop assuming at the lowest levels. If this could ever occur, I would then think that eventually the largest barriers that cause discrimination would tumble through the use of the same simple formula — an open mind.

It's a simple idea, but difficult to implement. Yet as long as we make a conscious effort, some of the stereotypical barriers we now face can be broken down. However simple, it is a starting point. And a start is what this University needs.

Glenn B. Rougier is a senior majoring in marketing and is the business manager of The Daily Collegian.

police log

- A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle Friday in Parking Lot Brown F, University Police Services said. The individual was treated for minor injuries at Ritenour Health Center.
- Joe Y. Wong of New York reported his vehicle was struck while it was parked in lot Brown F, University police said.
- Two former roommates sprayed each other with mace Thursday, University police said.
- William Hoffman, 1133 Center Lane, reported that he was punched in the face at 300 E. College Ave. Thursday evening, State College Bureau of Police Services said. Police said he was treated at Centre Community Hospital.
- Tim Mahaffey of Illinois reported that he was punched in the face Friday at 2:30 a.m., State College police said.
- A bike valued at \$160 was reported missing from Community Field Friday by Evan Keating, 119 W. Lytle Ave., State College police said.
- A pipe collection, old coins and a fan were reported missing Friday by Frank Finsinger, 32 Woodside Trail-er Park, State College Police said.

Apartment complex planned

A \$2 million student apartment building is being planned for downtown State College.

The building, to be located at the corner of South Atherton Street and Highland Alley, is scheduled for occupancy in fall of 1988, according to Ralph Albarano, Jr., of Ralph J. Albarano and Sons, Inc., Duncansville, the general contractor of the project. RADD Development Co., also of Duncansville, is the developer of the project.

Albarano said the building, that will occupy approximately one-half acre, will be called The Collegian. He said he hopes the occupants will be a mix of both students and professionals.

Each of the 32 two-bedroom apartments will include a full kitchen, complete with microwave, dishwasher, and garbage disposal, a living room with a small balcony, two full baths, and a study area, according to Albarano. The first floor will be used for 48 parking spaces, he said. The entrance to the complex will be located at Highland Alley and Alley G.

The building will replace two existing buildings, a home converted to student apartments and the building that houses Glass, Inc., 217 S. Atherton St. The glass cutting company is planning to relocate to Commercial Boulevard, Dale Summit, Mary Meyer, spokeswoman for Glass, Inc., said.

The home, located at 223 and 225 S. Atherton St., will be torn down, according to Albarano.

The plans for the building will be reviewed by the State College Borough Planning Commission on June 18, Borough Zoning Officer Herman Slaybaugh said. It has already been reviewed by the Design Review Board, which approved it, but with some criticisms. The DRB recommended that the roof and window plans be changed, the parking arrangement modified, and the facade changed from the proposed blue and white, Slaybaugh said.

—By Shelly Napoli

Bennett: gvmt. may want to extend sentences of prisoners with AIDS

NEW YORK — Education Secretary William Bennett says the government may want to extend the imprisonment of inmates with AIDS who threaten to infect other people after their release.

"This is a very tough issue, I don't think there's an easy answer to it," Bennett said in an interview broadcast yesterday on the CBS News program "Face the Nation."

But, he added, "Supposing that

person says... as we've heard a few people say, 'When I get out, I'm going to take my revenge on society.' I think this is a hard question for us, and you may want to hold on to him."

Bennett continued: "I have difficulty with (holding a prisoner whose sentence is served), but I have difficulty with the guy I saw on TV who said: 'I'm mad at society, I'm going to go out and infect everyone I can.' Society has to respond to that."

Bennett's advocacy of some mandatory tests for acquired immune deficiency syndrome was criticized by Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R-Conn., a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

"I don't want the administration to set the tone of the fight against AIDS by wallowing in the testing issue," Weicker said.

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