

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Tuesday, June 16, 1987

editorial opinion

Flying the unfriendly skies

"There is more traffic than I can point out to you. Please be careful out there."
—A controller quoted in Time on a smoggy day in Los Angeles

Imagine feeling your way down an unlit, deserted street in the middle of the night. Then imagine the panic you experience when you are suddenly confronted by an automobile approaching from a blind corner. With nowhere to turn, a collision is inevitable.

And so goes the fight for safety in America's skies. Until recently, the nation's air traffic controllers and the planes they tried to direct to landing strips were as blind as they were overworked. In 1981, faced with intolerable work hours, poor work conditions and unsafe equipment, air traffic controllers struck for a safer workplace. The action prompted President Reagan to fire 11,345 controllers and the friendly skies became suddenly ominous.

In an attempt to address the problems that prompted the 1981 strike, air traffic controllers decided to unite last week forming the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

The establishment of a new union once again signaled the problem of overcrowded airspace, but it did little to alleviate the roots of the controller's problems.

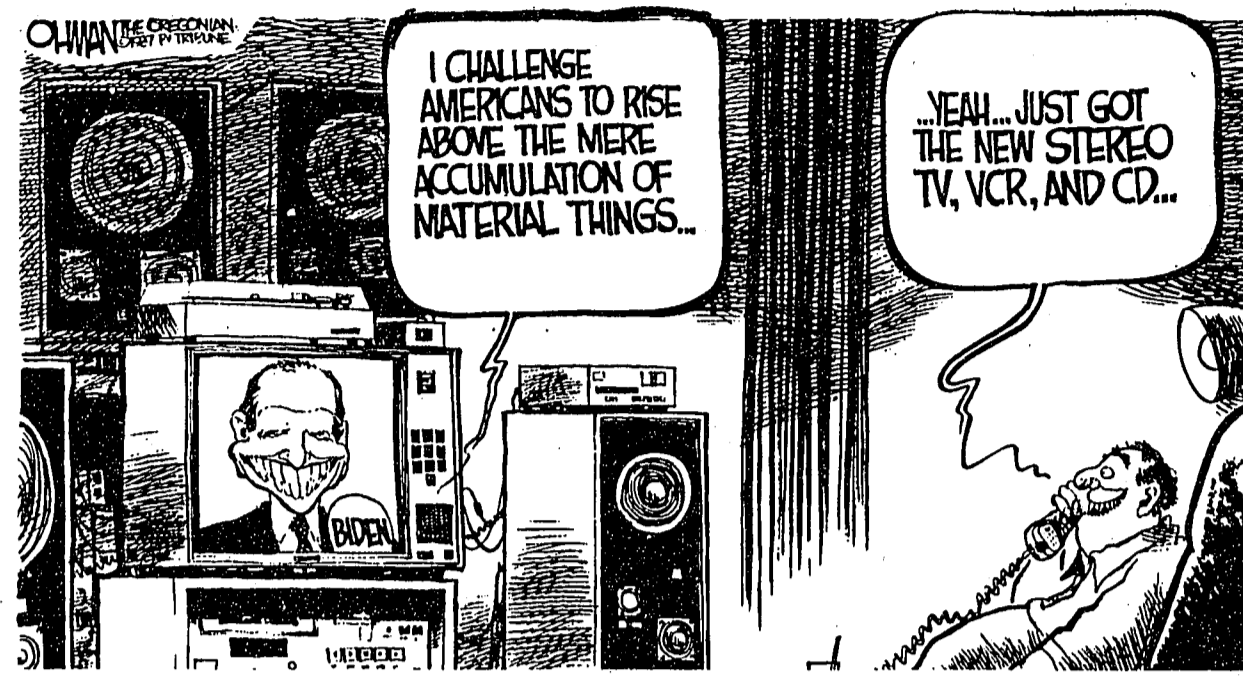
They are singing the same tune they sung to no avail six years ago. They are overworked, underqualified and working with equipment that is much older than their grievances.

Many of the ATC computer systems they depend on are over 20 years old. The equipment fails regularly nationwide, leaving pilots to use "see and avoid" tactics. A controller at a facility on Long Island said there is "some sort of equipment breakdown two or three times a month."

Late last week, the Federal Aviation Administration admitted there is a problem in our skies — enough of a problem to begin reducing the number of flights and spreading planes out over some areas at certain times during the day.

What's more, it demanded three additional safety measures including requiring altitude-reporting devices on planes, restricting flights by student pilots in "terminal control areas" within 30 miles of the nation's most congested airports and requiring private pilots to file flight plans four hours in advance.

It is heartening to see that the FAA has finally recognized the severity of the problem and has taken immediate measures to solve it by decreasing the number of flights. Customers may be temporarily inconvenienced but America's skies will be a lot safer for it.



reader opinion

Ways to cope

Flipping through a fashion magazine of the '80s, it is obvious to anyone that exercise, fashion, dieting, and beauty are all influenced on the majority of men and women in our society today. However, many women in particular find that by conforming to the "in things," they are better accepted by society and are happier with themselves.

This is the process of socialization in which many individuals acquire those modes of thinking, feeling, and acting that are necessary to participate effectively in the larger community (Light and Keller 1986). Often, however, women become so obsessed with their socialization, in addition to other problems they may have to face, and resort to more drastic measures in order to belong. Two examples of this desire for perfection are the eating disorders of anorexia and bulimia.

There is no easy explanation as to why many women today are facing these eating disorders. Major contributors to them are the different influences on our society today and the values we have created. In many women's battles against sexism, they encounter the different sex roles expected of them and sex role stratification (or the ranking of one sex as superior to the other (Light and Keller 1986)). Many times, accompanying this battle comes low self-esteem generated by not meeting some standard of society and in turn, many women become anorexic or bulimic, ironically violating one norm — that of health which our society values greatly — in order to conform to another.

While the behavior of the women suffering from these eating disorders may be far from normal, it is important to be aware that these eating disorders are serious problems that more often than not are very difficult to cure. In an article by Allan Mazur on beauty trends in America, Mazur states:

"Women are under more pressure than men to conform to an ideal of beauty because they quickly learn that their social opportunities are affected by their beauty, and a sense of beauty (or lack of it) becomes an important facet of a young woman's self-concept."

Perhaps our society needs to re-evaluate the values we have created, especially for women, and place more emphasis on personality and capability, rather than sexuality and beauty. It is important for us as individuals of our society to be aware of our ideals and the effects they have on others. For many women, anorexia and bulimia are ways of trying to deal with some of the pressures created by our society.

Don't be fooled

From reading articles in *The Daily Collegian*, and hearing people talk, it has become clear to me that most white people on campus and in the entire United States for that matter do not believe that racism is still widespread and growing. Well, it is. The reason you don't see it is (1) it's not directed toward you (2) apathy on your part and (3) it's covert.

No one is going to come into your room and burn a paper cross like they did at the Citadel in South Carolina. No one is going to burn a wooden cross in front of a white sorority like they did in Alabama. No one is going to protest outside of your home for your family to move like they did in southwest Philadelphia.

The vast majority of white people on campus and in the United States have better things to do than worry about something which is not going to affect them directly. This is called apathy.

You cannot take an injustice that has spanned centuries and expect to deal with it by passing a few laws. That does not make everything alright. Common sense says that if you were a racist with power in the '60s, chances are you are now a racist with even more power in the '80s. Laws don't change, people do. They only affect the way people act in public.

Few white Americans realize how covert racism can be. You must forget the old stereotypical view of a racist being a southern "redneck" who dons a white hood at night and runs around with a noose in his hand mouthing racial slurs.

Today's racist could wear a three piece suit, always smile in black faces or could be a business executive who does not promote blacks beyond a certain level.

A racist could be an ad executive who doesn't use black models for a covergirl ad, but can find enough blacks to shove into a singing and dancing restaurant commercial.

A racist could be part of a newspaper that covers the ongoing racial debate concerning the pros and cons of circumcising infants, but neglects to cover a major black event like the Miss Black Penn State ceremony. Could these be racist acts?

People have to realize that racism affects everyone. Whether he be a professional, with his 2.8 kids, a dog named Buffy and a loving wife. When the river of advancement for blacks is dammed, all you get is a stagnant pool. And a stagnant pool is only good for breeding disease and death.

Whether you see it or not, believe that racism is here, there, everywhere. It hides like the cancer that it is, growing until it makes its presence known. And all it does is bring misery to everyone.

Jeremiah Townsend Jr.
freshman-engineering

Please Write

Are you angry at a recent editorial, article or column printed in *The Daily Collegian* and are your friends and/or classmates thoroughly bored with the fact that you've rehashed 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 and ideas locally, nationally or internationally.

All letters should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than two pages. If you believe a topic merits more than 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. Letters and ideas should be submitted to the *Collegian* office in 126 Carnegie building during business hours, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you have 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.

needless conflict in which we don't belong. A quick visit to any veterans hospital would probably make even the toughest old soldier want to break down and cry. A veteran's hospital is where many men live out a good part of their adult lives because the war, some war, robbed them of their legs, their arms or their minds. My Uncle John lived a great part of his life in a veterans hospital because, after spending World War II in a foxhole dodging bullets and shrapnel he came home to dodge the demands of a society with which he was never quite able to cope.

"One war has led to another and another and yet another, and the cruel fact is that few men, however they die, are remembered beyond the lifetimes of their closest relatives and friends," Manchester writes.

Sad but true, he's probably right. However, we must have hope and most of all we must not forget. Because forgetting the phrase "No more Vietnams," may very well be our ticket to many more Vietnams.

Jim Higgins is a senior majoring in Journalism and is the assistant managing editor of *The Daily Collegian*.

Court says impact on victim's family cannot be considered

By JAMES H. RUBIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a major setback for the victims' rights movement, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the impact of a murder on the victim's family may not be considered when a convicted killer faces a possible death sentence.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices overturned the death sentence for a Maryland man convicted of brutally killing an elderly couple.

The court said the jury that sentenced the man to be executed may have been inflamed by evidence that the couple was dearly loved by family members who said they were devastated by the murders.

Gene Patterson, representing a coalition of victims' rights groups, said the decision "is a slap in the face to all victims of violent crime. It's a major setback to our movement because in essence the ruling says the rights of innocent victims."

Victims' rights organizations argued unsuccessfully that society has a vital stake in meting out the harshest penalties in retribution for the harm done to families of those killed.

In two cases involving free speech, the court:

• Unanimously declared unconstitutional a sweeping Los Angeles International Airport ban on free-speech activities aimed at preventing distribution of leaflets and solicitation of contributions inside the terminal.

• Ruled that cities may not make it a crime to "interrupt" police officers in their work. The 8-1 decision struck down a 1985 Houston ordinance.

In the victims' rights case, the court did not say whether its ruling applies retroactively to other death row inmates who were sentenced under laws that permit

consideration of the impact of a killing on the victim's family.

Most states permit judges and juries to weigh the emotional, financial and psychological impact of a crime on the victim and family members. But it is not clear how many states apply that rule to cases in which the defendant faces the death penalty.

Monday's ruling applies only to capital punishment cases.

Justice Lewis F. Powell, writing for the court, said allowing the jury to hear about the impact on the family of a murder victim can only inflame jurors and result in "an arbitrary or capricious" sentence.

"One can understand the grief and anger of the family caused by the brutal murders in this case," Powell said. "But the formal presentation of this information by the state can serve no other purpose than to inflame the jury and divert it from deciding the case on the relevant evidence concerning the crime and the defendant."

Also, he said, such victim impact statements raise irrelevant questions about the victim's standing in the community and his or her relationship to family members.

The death penalty may be imposed because of "the perception that the victim was a sterling member of the community rather than someone of questionable character," Powell said.

And, he said, someone might receive the death penalty merely because family members are willing and able to articulate their grief.

Joining Powell in the majority were Justices William J. Brennan, Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

The dissenters were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Byron R. White and Antonin Scalia.

Lobbyist Deaver faces trial

Appellate court denies appeal on perjury charges

By JAMES ROWLEY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A federal appellate court ruled yesterday that lobbyist Michael K. Deaver must stand trial on perjury charges, refusing to accept his appeal of a pre-trial finding in the case.

The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Deaver could not appeal the trial judge's denial of his motion to dismiss the indictment on the ground that independent counsel Whitney North Seymour Jr. had no authority to prosecute the case.

Deaver had sought to have the appellate court rule on his challenge to the constitutionality of the Ethics in Government Act, which provides for judicial appointment of independent counsel.

But the court refused to accept Deaver's appeal of U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's decision, saying the lower court's ruling "is not a final order, and therefore is unappealable."

"We find no reason to make an exception in this case," the court said in the order. Judges Harry Edwards, James Buckley and Stephen Williams.

Deaver, who resigned as deputy White House chief of staff in 1985, is

charged with five counts of lying to a House subcommittee and a federal grand jury that investigated his lobbying business for possible ethics violations.

The trial had originally been scheduled to begin June 8, but Deaver's appeal forced a postponement while the issue was being considered in the appeals court.

Normally, pre-trial rulings by judges are not appealable. But Deaver, arguing the serious nature of his constitutional challenge, contended that the court should make an exception to this procedural rule.

Deaver's request that it reject a so-called mandamus order to Jackson, directing him to reconsider his pre-trial ruling.

"Mandamus is an extraordinary remedy to be invoked only in drastic circumstances," the court said. "There are no such extraordinary circumstances presented here."

The ruling marks the second time in a week that a federal appellate court has sidestepped constitutional challenges to the ethics law.

Last week, it sent a similar challenge by Lt. Col. Oliver North back to U.S. District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr. with instructions to rule on the case without deciding constitutional issues.

The former National Security Council aide is challenging the authority of independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh to force him to give a sample of his handwriting to the grand jury investigating the Iran-Contra affair.

In that case, the court ruled that Robinson had erred by refusing North in contempt of court for holding to obey the subpoena without first considering his challenge to Walsh's authority.

The major difference in the North case is that Walsh, unlike Seymour, accepted a parallel appointment as a special prosecutor from the Justice Department.

North contends that that appointment, made in response to an earlier challenge to Walsh's authority, is now invalid. The appeals court ordered Robinson to consider the validity of the parallel appointment before considering any constitutional issues surrounding the statute.

Deaver, meanwhile, has accused the House Energy and Commerce investigation subcommittee of calling him to testify merely to determine if he would commit perjury.

In court papers filed in the case, Deaver charged that the subcommittee solicited his testimony only to see if his answers squared with information already in possession of the panel.

Deaver's lawyers filed the brief in opposition to the House subcommittee's motion to quash his subpoena for records of the panel's investigation.

The subcommittee, which referred allegations of perjury by Deaver to Seymour last summer, cited congressional immunity from the subpoena.

Space—

Continued from Page 1.
maintenance, scientific study, and crew health maintenance, Goldberg said.

In addition to studying pre-flight training, Goldberg is also looking at on-board training to be conducted during the nine months it will take a spacecraft to make the 40 million-mile trip to Mars.

"Training may also be required while astronauts spend time on the surface of Mars, a period generally expected to last at least six months, he said, adding that manned flights to Mars could begin by the year 2020."

The need for specific training requirements comes at a time when astronauts are receiving larger loads of responsibility, he said, adding that astronauts must often train for several years before they can be selected for a mission.

"Mission control cannot simply take over the vehicle — you must have astronauts to do that," he said.

"There has been a change in philosophy going on at NASA. In the past, astronauts have not been measured — they've always been almost god-like," he said. "Now they're treated more like real people and the new breed of astronaut is accepting that."

Goldberg said although training requires astronauts to be engaged in simulated situations and emergencies, it is impossible to prepare for all possible situations.

"We realize we can't train for every possible contingency," he said. "There are always unexpected circumstances and conditions. . . . You can't, for instance, train for exact environmental situations and conditions," he said. "We just can't fully duplicate some situations, but we do our best."

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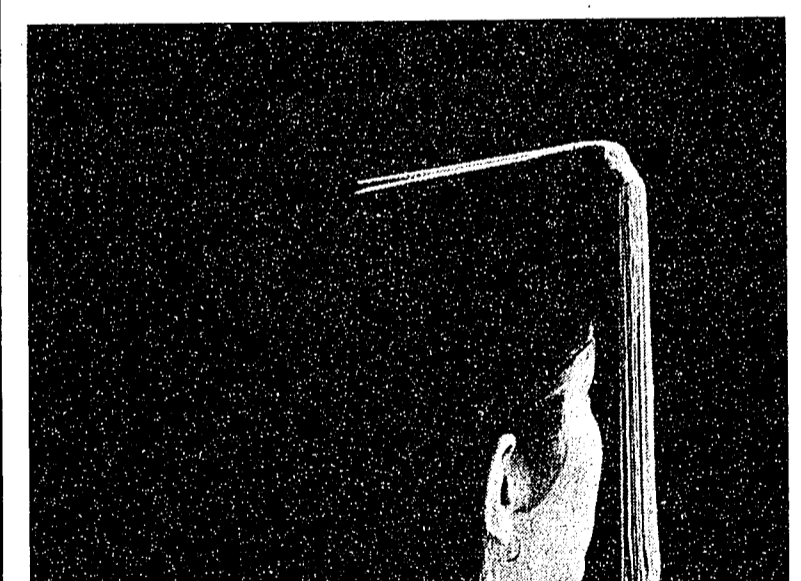
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Worthy Words

"... and time and the world are ever in flight."
— William Butler Yeats

the Collegian

Tuesday June 16, 1987
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Columnists Wanted

Are you interested in becoming a columnist for *The Daily Collegian* for Summer Semester 1987? If so, then we are interested in hearing from you. You don't have to be a journalist or English major to write for us, but you must be currently enrolled as a student at the University.

Columnists will be expected to write frequently on national and local issues currently capturing the public's attention. What we want are ORIGINAL, well-written, well-researched and insightful columns (not old high school term papers). They can range from humorous to political (or can be politically humorous, whichever you prefer). We ask that you be able to present these issues in new and different ways that will

challenge and amuse our readers. The editorial opinion page offers opportunities to write creative and opinionated pieces along with a chance to flex some of your mental muscle. If all this excitement sounds right up your alley, you may be just who we are looking for.

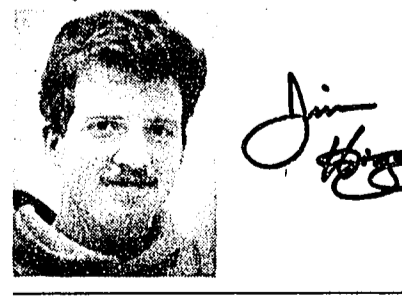
Anyone interested in becoming a columnist for the *Collegian* should stop into our offices in 126 Carnegie building to pick up an application. Completed applications should be returned, along with two typed samples of your writing, to Opinion Editor Meg Culhane by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 19th. NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Questions may be directed to Meg Culhane at 865-1028.

Never forget

It is only by remembering past conflicts, that tomorrow's unjustified wars can be avoided

"Only the dead have seen the end of war."
—General Douglas MacArthur quoting Plato

This column was supposed to be about that Yuppie/DINK (Double Income No Kids) presidential candidate Joe Biden. But its too early in the race to start speculating about who's got what it takes to run a country. So I decided to write about something else that's been on my mind lately.



The above quote is from Sunday's *New York Times Magazine*. My apologies to the writer William Manchester but that is just too good a quote to leave out of a column about war.

because my father, like Manchester, is a veteran of the same conflict — Okinawa. Without going into details, the Pacific island of Okinawa was to be the last stop for American forces in World War II before a massive invasion of Japan itself. Beginning in April, 1945 the struggle lasted 82 days and over 200,000 American and Japanese soldiers lost their lives fighting it.

The "bloodiest battle" proved a decisive victory for us but the massive invasion of Japan was scrapped when two atomic bombs were dropped there in late summer of that same year. The bombs made it clear that an invasion would not be necessary and the course of history, as well as the methods of war, were changed forever.

The Island of Okinawa is nothing new to me. Ever since the first time I opened up an old ammunition box of my father's (besides his heavy wool uniform and dog tags it is, I believe, the only souvenir he brought home from the war) and shuffled through the stack of pictures that he had stored inside, my curiosity about Okinawa and war itself has been insatiable.

To this day two of the pictures in that old green box are pasted vividly in the forefront of my memory. They are of dead Japanese soldiers (at least I think they are Japanese). Now, I'm not talking about the kind of dead soldiers you see in John Wayne war movies like "The Sands of Iwo Jima," or "The Green Berets." No, I'm talking about mutilated, decaying corpses that probably smelled as rotten as they looked.

Looking back, I wonder why my dad never took those pictures and hid them away in his sock drawer, or pulled them out of my tender young hands when I picked them up. But now I'm beginning to understand why he let me see all of the old pictures, including the ones that depicted frightened old Japanese men and women hiding out in caves as well as the dead soldiers.

He wanted me to see how war really was; how fear and death really looked. Sure his stories about that faraway island are real, but like his uniform, old and out of fashion, they cannot possibly communicate the real horror he and his fellow Marines experienced. Thanks to those pictures I think I've been given a more realistic view of what war really is like.

A more recent account of what a more recent war was like is given to us in the movie "Platoon." The very first scene of

the movie shows actor Charlie Sheen and his buddies stepping off a transport plane and into another world called Vietnam. Through the dust kicked up by propellers Sheen sees essentially what is representative of any war. He doesn't see sharp looking soldiers preparing to go home to happy parades and smiling girlfriends. Rather, he sees black bags being piled on luggage carts. Yes the soldiers are going home but parades will be more like processions and the girlfriends, he knows, won't be smiling.

Only recently has the American public come to a tiny realization of what the war in Vietnam was really like. Documentaries, movies, talk shows, and monuments recounting the war are a dime a dozen these days. But unless our veterans constantly remind us of what it was like to fight for nothing they could understand and come home to nothing they could celebrate, then we can and will very well make the same mistake again.

History, as most of us well know, often-times does repeat itself and it's scary to think that it may only be a matter of time before our leaders decide it is time we flex our right arm of democracy in another

needless conflict in which we don't belong. A quick visit to any veterans hospital would probably make even the toughest old soldier want to break down and cry. A veterans hospital is where many men live out a good part of their adult lives because the war, some war, robbed them of their legs, their arms or their minds. My Uncle John lived a great part of his life in a veterans hospital because, after spending World War II in a foxhole dodging bullets and shrapnel he came home to dodge the demands of a society with which he was never quite able to cope.

Sad but true, he's probably right. However, we must have hope and most of all we must not forget. Because forgetting the phrase "No more Vietnams," may very well be our ticket to many more Vietnams.

Jim Higgins is a senior majoring in Journalism and is the assistant managing editor of *The Daily Collegian*.

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