

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Thursday, June 18, 1987

## editorial opinion

### Unlocking the front office door

Forty years ago Jack Roosevelt Robinson successfully climbed the first rung of a ladder that rested against a massive wall barring blacks from the baseball diamond. The date was April 15, 1947. It was an unprecedented moment in sports history when Robinson donned the blue and white of the Brooklyn Dodgers that day. He became the first black ball player in the major leagues.

Since then, the "great American pastime" has been a showcase for black athletic talent. But while both black and white ballplayers share the spotlight on the field, scales in the front offices of the nation's baseball clubs are weighted in favor of whites.

Among the 26 major-league baseball clubs there are no black managers or general managers, no blacks serving as personnel or minor-league directors and no blacks in high-ranking executive positions.

In December, baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth dedicated the 1987 season to the memory of Jackie Robinson. It was an attempt to draw attention to the lack of black representation in management. Ueberroth publicly threatened to quit his job if minorities did not soon occupy front office positions.

Ironically one of Robinson's teammates on the Dodgers farm club in 1946, Al Campanis, was recently dismissed as vice president of the Los Angeles Dodgers after commenting on national television that blacks might not have "some of the necessities" to be managers and general managers of major-league baseball teams.

league baseball does nothing for the future of the game's black management. But fortunately the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ueberroth and others have made a firm commitment to dispel the myths by promoting what they believe are the right qualifications blacks possess for the big jobs.

In an effort to intensify the crusade, Ueberroth delivered the ball clubs an ultimatum. Owners have until July 10th to submit affirmative-action policies for the hiring of minorities in management positions.

Forty years after Robinson went 0-for-3 at Ebbetts field, things are finally beginning to change in the executive suites occupied by baseball's managers and front office personnel.

Ueberroth did not quit; he got what he bargained for. Sports sociologist Dr. Harry Edwards will occupy the position of special assistant to the commissioner. A black man in a high-ranking office. American sports has waited too long for this moment.

"The time is way overdue for minorities to get their chance. It's going to happen and it's going to happen now," Ueberroth said.

Forty-four-year-old Edwards has long been an activist in the crusade for a desegregated atmosphere in the sports arena. He is the second black executive to sit beside a commissioner — from 1969-1984 former New York Giants outfielder Monte Irvin was commissioner Bowie Kuhn's assistant.

The racial wall barring blacks from executive positions is slowly becoming surmountable. Ueberroth's appointment of Edwards as his special assistant is only a small step, but it is a step in the right direction.



THE GREAT DODGER IN THE SKY

### 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 proficiently 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 this summer.

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 865-1828.

### the Collegian

Thursday June 18, 1987  
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Letters Policy: The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double-

### police log

- A University professor of Food Science was killed in a one car accident Tuesday, State College Bureau of Police Services said. Police said Dr. Robert D. McCarthy of Aaronburg was traveling west on Route 45 about two miles east of Baulsburg when his car crossed the highway and struck several trees. He was pronounced dead at Centre Community Hospital.
- A 1987 Red Nissan Sentra was reported missing Tuesday from a parking lot at 215 W. Fairmount Ave. by Carole Coleman, 606 Devonshire Dr., State College Police said.
- An undisclosed amount of money was reported missing Monday from Images III, 220 W. College Ave., State College Police said.
- A total of four tires were reported slashed Wednesday on cars owned by Christine Gillespie, 612 Southgate Dr., Gina Dell, 814 Southgate Dr., Paul Priore, 672 Southgate Dr., and Linda Fronson, 620 Southgate Dr., State College Police said. The cars were in a parking lot at 600 Southgate Dr., police said.
- A bicycle valued at \$100 in was reported missing Tuesday from Parking Lot Red E by Etem Emre 1101 W. Aaron Dr., State College Police said.
- A bicycle valued at \$80 was reported missing Wednesday by James Higgins, 458 E. College Ave., State College Police said.

### Krishnas say leader is innocent

NEW VRINDABAN, W.Va. (AP) — The leader of the largest Hare Krishna community in North America is a peaceful man who had no involvement in the execution-style slaying of a religious rival in California, a sect spokesman said yesterday. Gadadhara Das said the Kirtananda Swami Bhaktipada "is a man of God" who is the victim of an effort by "some local, state and federal officials" who dislike the Hare Krishna sect.

"We're considered a cult and they want to get rid of us," he said. Wednesday's New York Times reported that several senior advisers have told investigators the Swami approved payment of several thousand dollars to the man charged with the 1986 slaying of Steven Bryant in Los Angeles.

### Airport security systems a problem

CHICAGO (AP) — More than 20 percent of all concealed weapons found their way past airport security systems at 28 major airports tested by the Federal Aviation Administration, a spokesman for the agency said yesterday.

While one of the airports subjected to the random tests discovered 99 percent of all hidden weapons, the airport with the worst record detected only 34 percent of the devices, said FAA spokesman Fred Farrar. For security reasons, the FAA refused to identify the airports, which were tested in the last four months of 1986, Farrar said.

"Human frailty and attention to detail" were at the heart of the security problem, Farrar said in an interview from Washington. "We have research and development programs underway to work out those problems," Farrar said. "So far we haven't been too successful, but we're still trying."

Times and went unchallenged 496 times, according to the study, conducted by the General Accounting Office from FAA records.

Weapons that passed through the checkpoints unnoticed included unloaded guns and defused grenades, the study said.

"Testers" from the FAA routinely bring weapons into airports, Farrar said.

"There's nothing new about this because we've been doing these sort of tests ever since airport security systems were put in effect in 1973," Farrar said.

Rep. Cardiss Collins, D-Ill., head of a Government Activities and Transportation subcommittee, requested the study and announced the results during an interview earlier this week. The subcommittee was scheduled to hold a hearing on the study today.

"These test results demonstrate the need for the FAA to set minimum screening requirements and to penalize airlines for loose security procedures," Collins said.

### Worthy Words

"We're allowed into the ice cream store now. We're just not allowed to run the ice cream store."  
— Hank Aaron, former outfielder for the Atlanta Braves who holds the record for most home runs in a career.

### reader opinion

#### We the People?

Exactly 11 years since the 1976 massacre of schoolchildren in Soweto, Apartheid still lives and kills. Apartheid is South Africa's policy of constitutional racism. The white government ruling South Africa is elected by white people only. The black majority of the population does not have any say in the affairs of the country. Blacks are not even recognized as citizens of South Africa.

"We the People" are celebrating the 20th anniversary of "our" constitution while still "constructively engaged" with Apartheid South Africa at the expense of black lives. White South Africa continues to trample on black people as if they were nonhumans. The renewal of the year-old state of emergency is evidence that the government of PW Botha still brutalizes the black population. Rape on the black population, rape, murder and detention of the young and old by Botha's security forces, have all become regular aspects of daily life in the black townships.

South Africa's unjust laws deny the individual the right to freedom of speech. Blacks have no means whatsoever of peacefully expressing their loathing of Apartheid. The people's authentic leaders are either dead (victims of South Africa's law of detention without trial), or in jail serving life sentences. The laws prohibiting free speech have literally muffled the voices of the oppressed. Press coverage of the situation is restricted to the government's version of the events. It is even illegal for blacks to pray for their liberation. How else then can they express their

feelings? One might say that bombs make a louder sound than muffled voices. Yes, indeed. And so deteriorates the situation in South Africa.

Penn State should realize that the Sullivan Principles, author of the Sullivan Principles, is now calling for a total trade embargo against South Africa. Before it is too late, Penn State should seriously reconsider its stance on the divestment issue.

We must remember, as we make these decisions, that in conflicts like that in South Africa, the underdogs always emerge as victors because God is always on their side.

#### Dead not Red

In response to the editorial "Never forget" by Jim Higgins, I would like to point out that the United States military has never been involved in a "needless conflict." Every U.S. military action has had a just cause, to list four (Korea, Bay of Pigs, Viet Nam, Grenada) to drive out the communist menace.

I get the impression that Mr. Higgins would rather be "Red than Dead." I think it is imperative that the U.S. help the Contras drive the communist out of our backyard, Nicaragua. After all it is those backward, economically troubled countries, such as those in Central America, that fall to the communists and under the Soviet wing.

As far as fighting in wars, I quote from our 35th president, John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." I think defending our nation is an honor and I for one would rather be dead than Red.

Matt Pensek

### Criminal or victim?

In Goetz' case it is no easy decision when one lies bleeding and the other holds a smoking gun

A group of youths are accosting a feeble old woman, just pushing her around and asking her money. The woman draws a pistol from her purse and opens fire on the defenseless group. They run away injured and she is yet another hero of justice on the streets of New York City.



Though this may seem unlikely, in an era when Charles Bronson and Sylvester Stallone always get their man and their audience, it's no wonder that Bernhard H. Goetz received worldwide acclaim for shooting four youths that attempted to rob him on a Manhattan subway train two-and-a-half years ago.

Yes, finally someone who stood up to the criminals in New York. Goetz received letters of support and outpourings of funds from strangers to help him with legal fees after the Dec. 22, 1984 shooting.

A hero in New York? It seems appropriate for a vigilante to gain respect from those who face the daily paranoia of the criminals that roam on and below the streets of New York. The criminals seek weak and vulnerable victims like Goetz.

Goetz had been mugged before. Three men robbed him while he carried expensive equipment on a Canal Street subway in January 1981. After being denied an application for a gun permit, he purchased a .38-caliber revolver in Florida. He ran scared after his first encounter with street criminals. But in a city like New York, too many people run scared. And after a jury of his peers acquitted the subway gunman on 12 of the 13 charges against him, they may just have granted frightened New Yorkers a license to kill.

After the verdict was announced, a man

outside the courtroom carried a sign that read "Criminals watch out, we'll get you."

This frightens me more than walking through criminals in Times Square on New Year's Eve. These New Yorkers who have been fed up with New York crime and threats they receive regularly are ready to defend themselves and think they have the right to decide the fate of criminals they face. They are experienced in the ways of a city and think like this, but far too many people entering New York don't know what to expect.

Coming from a New Jersey suburb outside New York City, I've seen what can happen when inexperience hits the streets for the first time. I've seen friends from small towns looking up at the towering buildings and meanwhile being cased by young pickpockets on the corners. I've seen them freeze under the pressure of a surging crowd in rush hour. I've seen them stare dumbfounded at the street walkers and drug dealers in the seedier parts of the city. Although I may not be built from the threads of a city person, I can still hold my

own among them. I know how to look confident and cool in a bad neighborhood and can walk down the street without ever making eye contact with anyone. I know areas to avoid and though it may seem ridiculous, I know which way to look on one-way streets.

But to a city virgin everything is new and exciting and all that they've heard about the city has made them scared to learn differently. Worst of all, they look vulnerable and are easy prey for professional criminals.

The frustrations of victims lead to the frustrations of the law and those that support it, like the Guardian Angels. When people begin taking law into their own hands, the right to bear arms, legal arms, is taken to an extreme. The courts will have to decide who is the criminal and who is the victim. It won't always be easy if one is laying on the ground bleeding and the other is holding a smoking gun.

With the popularity of violent vigilante tactics in the theatres, too many frustrated victims of crime may be begging street criminals to "Make my day."

By carrying weapons they will join the ranks of those they fear most. I only fear the games of "Laser Tag" they may play on the subways and streets with real weapons, and the mistakes they may make in the process. It won't end until crime is wiped out, and frankly I don't foresee that happening.

The courts will have to decide who is the criminal and who is the victim. It won't always be easy if one is laying on the ground bleeding and the other is holding a smoking gun. Jane Kopacki is a junior majoring in Journalism and is managing editor of The Daily Collegian.

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