

Opinion

Editorial

Your Right

Tonight at 8 pm, in the Reed Building's Winter Garden, a group of students, faculty and staff will be conducting a public reading of Salman Rushdie's controversial book, "The Satanic Verses."

The First Amendment states that, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble ..."

"The Satanic Verses" is said to contain passages that are offensive to the Moslem religion. This may be so, but in a democratic society, Rushdie has the right to publish his book - just as those who are offended by the book have a right to speak out against it.

The reading tonight is not being held to laud Rushdie's fiction, nor is it not being held as a statement of hate towards the Ayatollah Khomeini. The reading is taking place as a show of support for an individual's right to freedom of expression.

The same right that I am employing by writing this editorial.

Richard G. Cain
Assistant Editor

We've Made The Move But we lost our dog

by James Martin

My assistant editor said it was like closing a time capsule. Okay, maybe that's a little profound but it is strange for members of the Collegian staff to walk through the Reed Building entryway near the Rub desk and see our old doorway covered with cement blocks. For staff members still operating on autopilot and used to plowing heedlessly through the Collegian's doorway, this can present a problem.

The fact is we've moved, leaving behind half of a small bad-smelling, cave-like office, that will now be turned into a counseling center. Seems appropriate somehow.

So after years of cramped but peaceful existence within close proximity of the RUB Desk, we have packed up our bags, Mr. Coffee, a handful of Macintosh Computers, one smelly dog and moved to our new offices.

Finally, the move is complete. We've been relocated to a larger office at the end of the hallway by the backroom.

Our new office smells new, has a lot of nice white paint and is actually carpeted. All in all we're basically a pretty happy group. With any luck we won't have to do layout on the floor any longer.

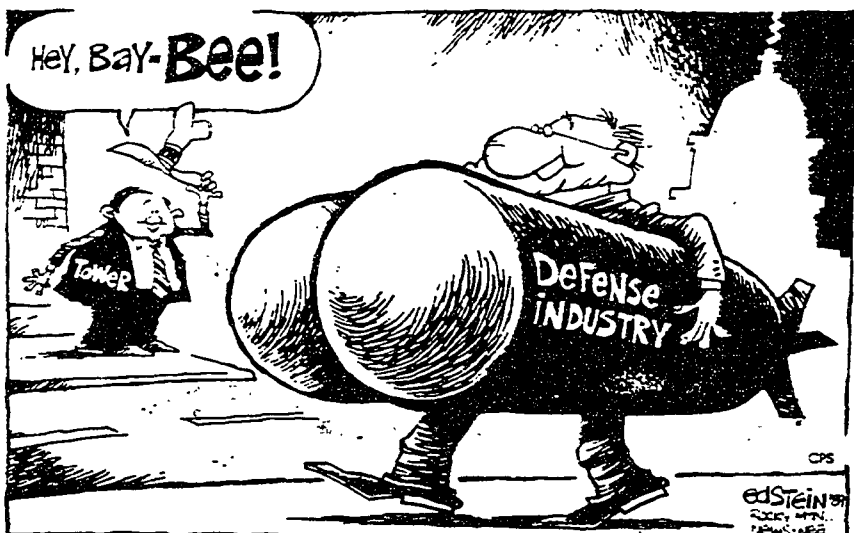
On the flipside, we miss our windows and sometimes wonder why we have a sewer pipe running through our office. Is someone trying to tell us something?

Basically we're not complaining, we only have one real problem. We've lost our dog.

Actually, we're talking about SGA President Steve McGarvey's dog. SGA did have their office next door to ours and Steve's 14 year-old mixed breed dog, who was a well-known fixture around the Reed Building was our constant companion.

Unfortunately, our faithful friend seems to have gotten lost in the move. We haven't seen to much of him since we made our move.

So Starsky: if you're reading this, we're back by the boiler room. We'll leave the door open for you.



Love Rob Rob's Top Five

by Rob Prindle

The Collegian recently employed the powerful and world-renowned Gallop Polling Company to conduct a survey. You may wonder how a small college newspaper like the Collegian could gain the employ of such a powerful polling facility. Lest you think that this newspaper is without contacts with important people, just consider our new office which contains well over five square feet of space and is located conveniently between the Backroom and the Boiler room. That should show you something about the power of the press at Behrend.

So, the guys of Gallop were only too happy to help me out when I asked them to conduct an opinion poll on the popularity of some important, well known people.



Rob Prindle

The poll also showed that 87 percent of the people who acknowledged themselves to be "Red Necks" had opinions that were too stupid to be counted in a scientific poll.

The results are in and some of them are quite shocking. For instance, did you know that 91.5 percent of Louisiana residents think that outspoken TV bigot Archie Bunker would make a fantastic state representative. The poll also showed that 87 percent of people who acknowledged themselves as "Red Necks" had opinions that were too stupid to be counted in a scientific poll.

The main purpose of the poll was to rate people in order of popularity. The most popular people were the same five jerks who are always the most popular so this column will hopefully take a more interesting track and concentrate on the top five most hated people according to the survey.

Starting off at the fifth most hated position is the leader of the Grand Old Party, Mr. Lee Atwater. Apparently everyone is sick of his love affair with "the Blues." Seventy-six percent of people who expressed an opinion said that they just pray to God that future generations do not mistake Atwater and his shaky sun glasses as being one of Belushi and Ackroyd, the Blues Brothers.

Respondents also said that they were really ticked off at Atwater for not resigning from the Howard University board of directors sooner. Atwater finally resigned, but it was not until the students of the predominantly black college held an extended sit in that drew national attention that the GOP leader resigned. The students complained that when Atwater was heading the Bush campaign he ran racist commercials intended to instill fear of minorities in white, suburbanite voters. In a related matter, 87 percent responded that they were impressed with the ability of the students to take an effective stand, or rather a *sit* for something they believed in.

Fourth place on the survey goes to Frank Lorenzo, head of Eastern Airlines. Sixty-two percent of those responding said he was a blood-sucking union buster who must have worked as a waiter in a former life. People questioned why a person as rich as Lorenzo has to get even richer at the expense of so many thousand workers. A whopping 79 percent of the people surveyed said that he deserved to be castrated with a dull, rusty saw for having declared bankruptcy on Friday which happened to be payday for all of the non-union workers who had stayed on the job at Lorenzo's pleading. Lorenzo called it good business to file bankruptcy in time to avoid paying the loyal workers.

Strangely enough, third place goes to the striking workers at Eastern Airlines. The main reason given by those who responded was the stupidity of the strikers. The machinists and the pilots at Eastern were the best paid in the world. People questioned the intelligence of the pilots giving up \$80,000 per year job.

The dubious honor of being chosen second most hated person in America goes to Behrend's own Butch. People cited Butch's radical views and their inability to find him in the student directory as the main reasons for their hatred. A staggering 86.5 percent of those expressing a hatred stated that Butch turned their stomachs and made them spend way too much money on fuchsia bottles of Pepto Bismol. 92 percent of the female waitresses surveyed said that if Butch ever touched them they would kick him so hard that he would never have the desire to touch another woman. This may express a growing conservatism among people who serve patty melt sandwiches.

What is even more revealing is the 99 percent of Republicans who said that they hope that Butch decides to pursue a career in Democratic politics.

Finally, the most hated person, according to the poll is...anyone who smokes. Every non-smoker surveyed, and a surprising 51 percent of the smokers themselves said that they could not stand anyone who was foul and vile enough to smoke in public under the supposition that it was some constitutional freedom to pollute other people. This can basically be interpreted as a statement of support for the sentiment that Smoking in public is approximately equal to urinating in public. Some, perhaps more radical, would say that smoking in a public place equates to urinating on people.

So, surveys don't lie. Smokers are on their way out. Any group of people who are more disliked than Butch cannot be far from extinction. From the poll it can be envisioned that a world in which smokers are stoned to death in public for lighting up.

