

Opinion

Attention Readers: Are you out there?

We're wondering if you're out there. This is third edition of The Collegian and so far we've received a staggering total of one letter to the editor.

No one even said anything when we suggested burning the flag might not be such a bad thing. We're waiting to hear from you. Seems the only way for us to get us get any mail is to spell someone's name wrong.

If you have a complaint or comment about our news coverage or editorial stance, let us know about it.

Or, if you've got some radical, left-wing ideas you'd like to share, send those in too. Simply follow the rules in the letters policy statement below and the floor is yours.

On the subject of news coverage: If you have an idea for a news story or know of something unusual that's happening, let us know.

The Collegian tries to keep track of what happens on campus, but it's hard to catch everything. We welcome any and all ideas for news stories. You don't have to be a staff member to contribute to The Collegian.

There's one other matter we'd like to make clear. Frequently staff members tell us their stories make readers unhappy, that occasionally we seem too harsh.

The Collegian takes seriously its role in reporting news accurately. Sometimes news stories make people unhappy, but we hope you'll see it our way.

Do you want a newspaper that doesn't print losing sports scores? Do you want a newspaper that doesn't report crime on campus?

We believe our attempt to print all the news, pleasant or unpleasant, is a better policy.

The Collegian

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The Collegian is a student-edited newspaper

Letters Policy Statement

Students frequently ask us if they can write an editorial. By definition, the answer is always no. An editorial represents the official stand of a newspaper on a given issue and is generally written by one of the newspaper's editors. Hence the name editorial.

We do however welcome the opinions of our readers, submitted in the form of letters to the editor. Letters may address topics of general campus interest or may respond to the Collegian's news or editorial content

Letters should be typewritten, signed by no more than two persons and should be turned in by 5 pm on Friday prior to the desired publication date.

LOVE ROB

It's so confusing

by Rob Prindle

It has come to my attention that I use the word "hate" a little too freely in my columns and in my daily conversations. Surely it is not healthy for a person to be so full of hatred.

Maybe I use the word so frequently because I like to generally write about things that I feel strongly about, and maybe in some way that is a bad thing to do.

I must admit that there are many things in this world that leave me quite confused. Not every issue gives me a sure feeling about which side I should be on. Not every issue is as easy as hating freshmen.

Take this argument for example: "I think that all drugs should be legalized. The drug problem in this country could be eliminated if the government would regulate drugs and take the underworld influences out of dealing. Use drugstores and tax the product. Bam, the government is making tax dollars where before they were losing millions fighting drug traffic."

But how about this counter argument: "It would be absolutely insane to legalize drugs like cocaine. The number one killer drug in this country is nicotine. People hooked in that particular legal drug literally smoke themselves to death. And drinking another legal drug, alcohol, kills thousands of people as well. Drunk driving along with the devastating physical side effects of consuming large quantities of alcohol kill millions of people. If drugs like cocaine were legalized then the common guy on the street would use it just as the common guy now smokes tobacco and drinks alcohol."

"Right now, in many communities across this country, illegal drugs are not used in large quantities because they are truly socially unacceptable. What would happen if bars and taverns started selling the stuff? I can see the guys from the third shift at General Electric looking forward to shooting-up after the whistle blows."

And I can also see a third argument: "Humans have been using drugs since the beginning of time. Nothing is going to stop people from pursuing chemicals which alter their moods. Instead of investing millions of dollars in trying to make people stop, why not invest that money in a research program that would try to develop safe, non-addictive, non-harmful drugs? It would make much more sense."

For most issues the black of one side of the issue runs into the white of the other side and instead of making a clear and distinct line they make a kind of gray.

Another issue that tears me apart is the death penalty and the eye for an eye theory that it represents. On one hand I can see that two wrongs don't make a right, but on the other I can see that sticking a psychopath behind bars with a bunch of other psychopaths and letting him lift weights every day for 20 years while spending millions of tax dollars to keep him there is sort of dumb.

If there was any proof that people who commit violent crimes were being rehabilitated in prison then I would think that prison terms were good alternatives to capital punishment, but I don't know.

Then again, I don't see any proof that capital punishment is deterring crime or helping anyone either. In fact, all it really shows is that with all of our supposed civilization we still dole out punishment the same way they did at the Salem witch trials, or at the time of Christ, for that matter.



Rob Prindle

Now do you see how hard life must be for a sensitive guy like me?

Oh, by the way, some people around campus have been saying that my columns have been a little sub-par as of late. People have told me that I've been basically running on my reputation.

I have something to say to all of those people. You are right.

I must admit that there are many things in this world that leave me quite confused. Not every issue gives me a sure feeling about which side I should be on. Not every issue is as easy as hating freshmen.

People no longer dislike me because of what I say, they dislike me because of what they hear I have said or what they think I might say.

I'm just too mellow and sensitive for my own good this semester and I think that today's issue proves that.

Therefore, for the next few weeks you will be reading Love Rob re-runs while I try to become more interesting by eating Erie-style chicken wings and drinking beer.

I'm not proud of this, I'm merely stating a fact.