

## Letter to the Editor

# Writer questions presidential privilege

On the February 5 episode of the Nightly News, I saw a report on the Iran-Contra Hearings. A report which stated that a judge wanted Ex-President Reagan to turn over documentation and submit to questioning. Reagan's response was to invoke presidential privilege.

I was not fond of the Reagan reign, but he did (one could only hope) his best, the results of which are subject to opinion, and served (either well, okay, or poorly, again subject to opinion) as the president of our great country. Ronald Reagan, for a variety of reasons, not all of which were good or just, will be in the history books. But, does the fact that he held the nation's highest public office make him exempt from any wrongdoing?

Is that office such that all those who hold it, or have held it are gods who are above reproach and can, therefore, do no wrong in the eyes of law?

It is a sorry message to pass on to the peoples of this nation if we do not hold all people, at any and every level, accountable for their mistakes. It is a sad day when such messages cause children to look up at the person in that office and say, "He or she might be wrong or have done an unjust, negligent, or criminal act, but that person is a god or goddess and can not be asked to account for his or her actions."

We, as a nation, invade a foreign country and, at the cost of lives on both sides, extract the man in power. The man, at first, eludes us and later seeks sanctuary in a religious facility, under what the man terms "political asylum" we demand that no such request be granted because of his past actions.

We finally get our way and the man, which gives the message that the man is guilty and must prove innocence. With all of this said, how can we possibly grant presidential privilege to Mr. Reagan who is no less a man, in the human, biological sense, that the one taken from Panama, without having a much stronger reason than the "I was your president" b.s. we seem to be getting?

If an unemployed person is accused, that person is assumed guilty, generally speaking. If a worker is accused, the company he or she works for will sometimes come to the aid of the person, but is still guilty by assumption. If the company CEO is accused, he or she will hire a lawyer to win the case, or simply get a slapped hand and a pardon.

If the president of the USA is asked to turn over evidence in a case and to testify, he is innocent, never accused, and exempt from penalties the average person would face without choice.

We are still the best country in the world (my opinion - others may or may not agree), but we seem to be run by gods who answer to no one but the dreams they have at night. Many children, I'm sure are wondering where to apply for this god-like key of privilege.

— Andrew Festa

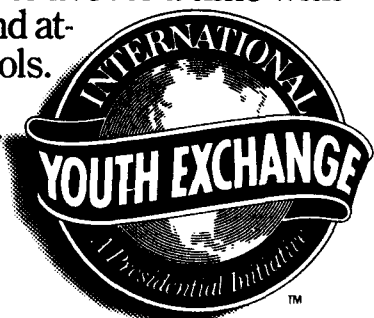
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# Provost discusses plans for more on-campus housing

More majors may be added

by Mark Owens  
Collegian News Editor

Last Thursday at Coffee with the Provost, several important issues were discussed, including freshmen requirements for housing and future expansion of the campus.

According to Provost and Dean John Lilley, starting in the fall of 1991 freshmen will be required to live on campus unless they are living at home with their parents.

Non-traditional students, however would be permitted to live off campus. Lilley said that he did not envision an on-campus living requirement for upperclassmen.

Eventually, enough housing should be available to accommodate 60 percent of the student population on campus.

Another topic discussed was whether or not Behrend should accept applicants who do not indicate Behrend as their first choice.

Behrend ranks second only to UP in the Penn State system in



Making a point: Provost and Dean John Lilley addresses a student during a past Coffee

academic standards for admittance. Lilley also said that as the campus grows, more majors will be added. He pointed out, however, nothing will be done until the new library/academic complex is completed.

## NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE FOR

The Guy W. Wilson Award for Excellence in Academic Advising

and

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Nominations must be submitted to the Office of the Provost and Dean by March 9, 1990

Any student, member of the administration, student group, or faculty member may submit a nomination form.

Nominations Forms are available in the Library.