



Mark Johnson/The Collegian

Pointing the finger: Educator Joe Clark was quick to blame school officials and parents for the flaws in public education when he spoke in the Reed Lecture Hall Tuesday.

## Educator Clark talks tough

*Blames administrators, families for inner-city educational problems*

by Robb Frederick  
*The Collegian*

Joe Clark may now spend his time on the lecture circuit, but the controversial principal who once stalked the halls of his New Jersey high school waving a bullhorn and wielding a baseball bat nevertheless remains a full-blooded educator.

Throughout his presentation "From Disgrace to Amazing Grace" in the Reed Lecture Hall Tuesday night, Clark reinforced his polysyllabic speaking style with translations into common terms, subconsciously expanding the vocabularies of his listeners.

The need for these elaborate adjectives and unusual adverbs was essential to Clark's discussion, however, and resulted in a tangible illustration to his central point -- that public education has become a sick, ineffective institution.

"We are a disoriented flock grazing on a barren land," he explained. "America has become the worst of all industrialized nations."

The problem with the current educational system, Clark professed, stems from inadequate fundamental teaching at the elementary and high school levels. This problem also appears

at the collegiate level, where admissions requirements are lowered to provide educational opportunities to minority students.

"Many blacks should not be here," he said. "Most of them can't compete; they were buried in the elementary schools."

"Don't insult me by saying 'Here little black boy, we're going to make things easier for you because you're just not good enough.'"

Clark was quick to place blame for the weaknesses of public education.

"If a young boy can memorize the words of M.C. Hammer, Boogie Down Productions or Public Enemy, then that boy can learn his times tables just as easily," he said.

Families are also to blame, Clark continued. "There is a lack of strong males within black families today. These children need strict role models who will grab them by the chest and say 'There are things you just can't do.'"

Another group at fault includes school administrators and bureaucrats, who are negligently misleading inner-city youth.

"Most black youths are unable  
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## Penn State, Erie launch education partnership



Mark Owens/The Collegian

Spreading the word: Provost and Dean John Lilley and Robert Light, director of industrial programs for the CE Center, field questions at the PEPP press conference Friday.

by Mark Owens  
*The Collegian*

A new Penn State program, aimed at helping over 100 "at-risk" Erie middle school students stay in school, was announced last Friday at the Erie School District Administration Building.

At the press conference Provost and Dean John Lilley, along with representatives from the Erie School District, Erie Community Agenda and the General Electric ELFUN Society, announced that the \$100,000 per year program would start

sometime next month at both Wayne and Wilson Middle Schools.

"This program has been in the planning for over a year," said Erie School Superintendent Joseph Rodriguez. "It's our hope that Erie students will be able to benefit from this effort."

Funding for the program will come from many sources. Aside from a \$61,000 commitment from Penn State, another \$10,000 will be given by the Erie Community Foundation and \$25,000 from the General  
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## Speaker highlights wellness week

Unfortunately, chemical dependency affects not only the alcoholic or the addict, but his or her family members as well--sometimes for several generations. Ann W. Smith, a pioneer in the treatment of such families, will take a look at "Co-dependency and Adult Children of Alcoholics" Wednesday, Feb. 27, beginning at 8 p.m. in Reed Lecture Hall.

Smith is a nationally recognized expert in the field of treatment for adult children of alcoholics. She started the nation's first in-patient ACOA treatment center, Caron Foundation, 16 years ago in Wernersville, Pa. Through her work at Caron, Smith found that chemical dependency has lasting effects on family members and loved ones in the form of "co-dependency."

Co-dependency is a pattern of compulsive behavior and approval seeking in an attempt to find safety, identity, and self-worth.

Even when the alcoholic has stopped drinking, families often remain dysfunctional and co-dependent for several generations, Smith teaches. Having treated more than 10,000 co-dependents, Caron Family Services' five-day program serves as a model for treatment programs

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