

## Editorial

# Flag scarce

Being American used to be cool.

The USA used to be hip, vogue and fashionable. Patriotism was the "in" thing. Red, white and blue were the colors of choice.

Actually, it wasn't that long ago. As a matter of fact, just last year students couldn't cross campus without seeing a half-dozen American flags. Everyone was acting patriotic.

It was truly a great feeling to walk through the apartment complex last semester and see Old Glory hanging in so many windows. The American flag was everywhere evoking pride and patriotism in passers-by.

The number of people supporting the members of the Armed Forces serving in the Middle East was encouraging and touching.

Unfortunately, it was also short lived. What happened to the patriotism? Now that most of the troops are home from the desert, has our patriotism been folded up with the flags and put neatly back into cardboard boxes?

It is important for Americans to be supportive of our country in times of conflict. It was heartening to see such a wave of patriotism hit the country last year when we were at war. It showed that America could still pull together, and that we haven't yet gone down the tubes as a nation.

Just because the war is over is no reason to stop being patriotic, though. Do Americans have to be engaged in kicking some other country's tail before we can show our patriotism?

Being an American doesn't come and go with wars and the Olympics. It's a full-time position.

That doesn't mean we have to agree with everything our government does. In fact, we would be a pretty boring democracy if there weren't any opposing ideas. But since we are a democracy, we're allowed to voice our opinions, raise controversies and disagree with our government.

That's freedom, and, in case you had forgotten, that's what the American flag stands for.



## Letter to the Editor

### No means no

This letter is in retrospect to the opinions expressed in the letter printed in *The Collegian* (Sept. 12) titled: "Reader Forum: Human Problem."

I believe rape education and prevention becomes an important part of a young woman's life, especially when she prepares to leave for college. Equally, young men should become aware of the responsibilities they hold.

Unfortunately, when educational video tapes on the subject are resented, the purpose of the tapes is defeated.

Many people contend men are discriminated against in such video tapes. Yes, I recognize the fact that most rape films portray the man as the perpetrator and the woman as the victim. However, it must be recognized that only a fraction of a percent of rapes on college campuses have men as the victim.

By repeating the phrase, "No means no," over and over, educators aim to assert this thought in the minds of young men, not to offend their intellect.

If it does indeed offend men, then it should be pointed out that case after case studied still has men misperceiving a woman's body language and reverting to the fact that they believe sometimes "No means yes." More importantly, some men still contend that they were "led on" by a woman's actions, speech or dress.

In a study of 400 men, psychologists have found that men regard tight clothing, certain situations (such as being alone in a room), and affectionate actions (such as a girl playing with a date's hair or gazing into his eyes) as sexual signals and as a willingness to have sex.

On the other hand, women are more apt to regard tight clothing as a sign of being fashionable and being alone with a date or behaving affectionately as signs of - well, affection.

Also, we have to ask who has the right to determine when a man has been "led on", and what right do men have to justify rape with their misinterpretations?

I have found another unfortunate misconception. Some people believe that attempted rape

is not as devastating as rape itself. Attempted rape holds all the same violence and shocking aftermath as rape; the only difference is that penetration does not occur. Because the effects of attempted rape and rape are so similar, most statistics are based on both cases. I would sincerely hope that these statistics are not ignored simply because they happen to be a combination of both cases.

Being a woman, I would hope that most, if not all men know where to draw the line between what is acceptable and what is considered rape. I don't believe that ignorance to the definition justifies the act, but I think most men know where the boundaries are and whether they've crossed them or not.

I sincerely hope that for the sake of future generations that both men and women begin to regard rape education tapes and programs as informative and open-minded, rather than one-sided. The first step in solving the problem is working together to understand it.

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## The Collegian

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