

Stick to Acting

Arnold Schwarzenegger should not try hand at political career

Arnold Schwarzenegger has spent much of his acting career trying to appear believable in roles he has no business playing. Many people looked on while he stumbled as the tough, yet sensitive police officer in *Kindergarten Cop*, and when he spoke unintelligibly in *Twins*. Apparently tired of 54.68 and acting, the Austrian is flirting with the idea of running for California governor.



GEORGE DEUTSCH

Schwarzenegger became a U.S. citizen in 1983 and received his first taste of politics when former President George Bush appointed him to head the President's Council on Physical Fitness in 1990. When asked in a recent interview with *Talk* magazine if he had ever considered running for California governor, Schwarzenegger replied, "Oh yeah, I think about it many times. The possibility is there because I feel it inside."

"I feel there are a lot of people standing still and not doing enough, and there's a vacuum." Schwarzenegger is apparently so serious that he has a Website dedicated to his cause — Schwarzenegger2002.com.

Schwarzenegger is the latest in an alarming number of entertainers trying to dabble in the political sphere. At one point last year, Warren Beatty and Cybill Shepherd were both considered running for president.

The fact remains, however, that actors are qualified to do just that — act. They should not be afforded any political power or influence based on their popularity and wealth. Entertainers have no business telling others how to stand on political issues — they are simply out of their league. This country

does not need another Jesse Ventura. It needs people skilled in politics, not bodybuilding or acting.

"My advice to Arnold, as a friend, is 'Continue with your movie career. Arnold, don't get involved in it. It won't be worth it to you,'" said Ventura of Schwarzenegger.

It will not be worth it for anyone else, either. Schwarzenegger is, however, connected to the most recognizable Democratic political family, the Kennedys, through his marriage to Maria Shriver. Arnold would be running as a Republican, but he insists that Shriver "will be 100 percent behind me."

What did Schwarzenegger say when asked to respond to reports that he used drugs? "I inhaled, exhaled, everything."

This is a great example to set for the kids of California — they will all want to shoot steroids so they can get big, like their potential governor. But it gets better.

Schwarzenegger said that the Republican Party should "love the foreigner ... as much as the gay person, [or] a lesbian person." How sensitive of you to include foreigners, gays and lesbians, Schwarzenegger, but the heavy accent will not win many votes. Sensitivity to others should not be a concession on Schwarzenegger's part but something expected of most politicians.

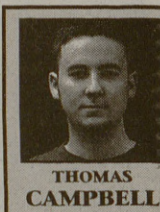
Having a few movies to one's credit is not a license to run for public office. Entertainers should limit themselves to entertaining people on the big screen, not as elected officials. If Schwarzenegger really wants to make a difference, he should focus his attention on a problem that has been plaguing the country for decades — his acting.

George Deutsch is a sophomore journalism major.



Military should get pay raises

After the Clinton years of decreased spending and downsizing the military, President Bush is fulfilling his campaign promise of pushing for military pay raises. In Bush's weekly radio address, he said, "They deserve ... long-overdue improvements in their pay, housing and standard of living."



THOMAS CAMPBELL

In the last eight years, military pay has increased only 9 percent, and Bush's proposed raise will add another 4.6 percent.

Since the Persian Gulf War, the military has decreased from almost 900,000 soldiers to less than 500,000 active soldiers. Some of this loss is because of the discharge of unnecessary soldiers, but the military fails to gain new recruits because of low pay.

In addition to the \$1.4 billion to go to pay increases, \$3.9 billion will increase health care benefits and \$400 million will improve housing. Hopefully, the added benefits will help build the morale of this once-proud army and to entice America's youth to join the military. Bush's plans for the military include counteracting the recent downsizing, and the only way the military will be able to increase the number of recruits will be if the pay can compete with civilian jobs.

These pay hikes are long overdue and much needed for the military, whose morale is considered to be at an all-time low, according to *The Washington Post*. More raises will be needed, but Bush has made a good start by proposing these raises.

During the last few years, U.S. servicemen and -women have been deployed to the Persian Gulf area, Africa, Croatia, Pakistan, India and Haiti, among other places. The military has decreased in size, but the area it patrols has increased.

The \$400 million allotted to upgrading military housing is still not enough. More than two-thirds of the military's 300,000 housing units were graded inadequate, despite the minimalist approach to rating these homes. One estimate stated that the total cost of rebuilding all the homes would be around \$20 billion. While rebuilding is not needed in all cases, it may be needed in many.

A new recruit makes a little less than \$1,000 a month right out of boot camp. With Bush's proposed pay increase, these signees will get a much-needed pay increase of equivalent to a month's salary every year. This should lift a great burden on servicemen and women, but it is still not enough. Soldiers on the lower pay scale need to be given a more substantial raise. Their raise is a large percent, but it still keeps many married soldiers salaries at or below poverty level.

The mid-level pay scale is also being greatly improved in order to keep skilled labor to in the military. Bush has also proposed an estimated \$1 billion in incentives for soldiers to stay in the military.

These extra incentives will help keep these soldiers, who are often considered the most skilled in the military. Losing these soldiers would be a great detriment to the military, because it takes years of training to replace each one.

In all, this pay increase may prove to be much too small. Additional housing allowances are needed to bring the substandard living conditions up to code. Pay increases will be essential if Bush decides that there is a clear and present need to rebuild the military. America's youth will not want to sign their youth away for less than \$1,000 a month. These pay increases show Bush's support for the military, but this support needs to grow.

Thomas Campbell is a junior speech communication major.

Mail Call

Careful research on courses can help schedule process

In response to Thomas Campbell's Feb. 16 column.

In his article, Thomas Campbell pointed out that it was the student's job to learn and the professor's job to assign grades based on the amount that a student learned. The flaw in this plan is that not everyone learns in the same manner or responds well to the same testing practices.

Every student learns in a different way. Some learn more effectively by reading while others learn better by visual aids, such as overheads or examples. For some students, attendance is a problem because of work, organizations or just the fact that 8 a.m. is too early. Other students feel more comfortable with true/false and multiple-choice tests, still others believe they demonstrate what they

have learned better through essay tests and projects.

Pickaprof was designed to allow students to pre-qualify their professors before they ever enter the classroom. If students plan to take History 105, they can go to the Pickaprof site and look at the student evaluations.

By reading what fellow students have written, they can find the professor who gives essay tests and likes students who come to office hours to ask questions, takes attendance for a grade and tests from material discussed in lecture.

Another student can find a professor who gives multiple-choice tests, does not take attendance, lectures in class, but tests solely from the book and reserve readings in the library.

The more information that students have before going into registration, the more educated a decision they will make. The result will be better performance in classes, and a higher GPR.

James Abell
Class of '99

Not Too Late

Clinton can, and should, be impeached

Marc Rich was indicted in 1983 for \$48 million in tax fraud and then charged with buying more than \$200 million in oil from Iran in 1979 in violation of a U.S. trade embargo. The latter transaction was made while U.S. hostages were being held in Tehran.



CHRIS CARTER

Nearly 18 years later, after fleeing the U.S. to avoid trial for his offenses, Rich was granted an 11th-hour pardon from President Clinton.

Despite the fact the Rich had no merit in his petition for pardon — a fugitive at large, denouncing his U.S. citizenship and living in Switzerland — Rich was still granted immunity by Clinton for the "merits" of the case.

It has been widely reported that Rich's ex-wife, Denise Rich, who orchestrated the effort for her former husband's pardon, has been a major contributor to the causes — and pockets — of Bill and Hillary Clinton. Since 1993, Denise Rich has contributed more than \$1.3 million to the Clintons, including \$450,000 to Clinton's presidential library, and \$10,000 to his legal defense fund.

Congress should carefully examine Rich's pardon, because of the suspicious circumstances surrounding it. According to Arlen Specter, R-Pa., in a "FoxNews Sunday" interview on Feb. 11, Clinton could technically still be impeached. Because this offense was committed while Clinton was in office, he could be impeached. If convicted, Clinton could lose his pension, allowances for offices, appropriations for his presidential library and the use of Secret Service bodyguards.

It is no accident that a million dollar contributor's — and petitioner's — ex-husband received a last-hour pardon overlooking his anti-American actions for more than two decades. Rich milked the American government of \$48 million and has lived in luxury for the past 18 years in Switzerland, only to be pardoned by the American government because of his "merits."

The "merits" Clinton cited in this case, though not specifically stated, are frightening-

ly clear. Rich's virtue is that he is like Clinton. He is a greedy, unethical criminal. Therefore, they should both be held by the same standard: Clinton should be indicted and impeached for selling his powers as president.

The American public should be outraged by Clinton's actions in granting petition to this criminal. Moreover, the American public should be livid over the apparent quid pro quo reasons Clinton signed Rich's freedom.

One would be hard-pressed to find another administration as scandal-ridden as Clinton's. Through most of his two terms, he enjoyed considerable job approval ratings and support from Democrats in Congress. Clinton's spokespeople and supporters continually insisted that allegations against him for Filegate, Whitewater, Paula Jones, illegal campaign contributions, perjury and illegal fund-raising activities were apparitions of wrongdoing and a set up by Clinton's right-wing enemies.

It has become clear through Clinton's actions during his administration that he can be bought, and in turn will buy favors for himself (as evidenced by his \$700,000 settlement with Paula Jones).

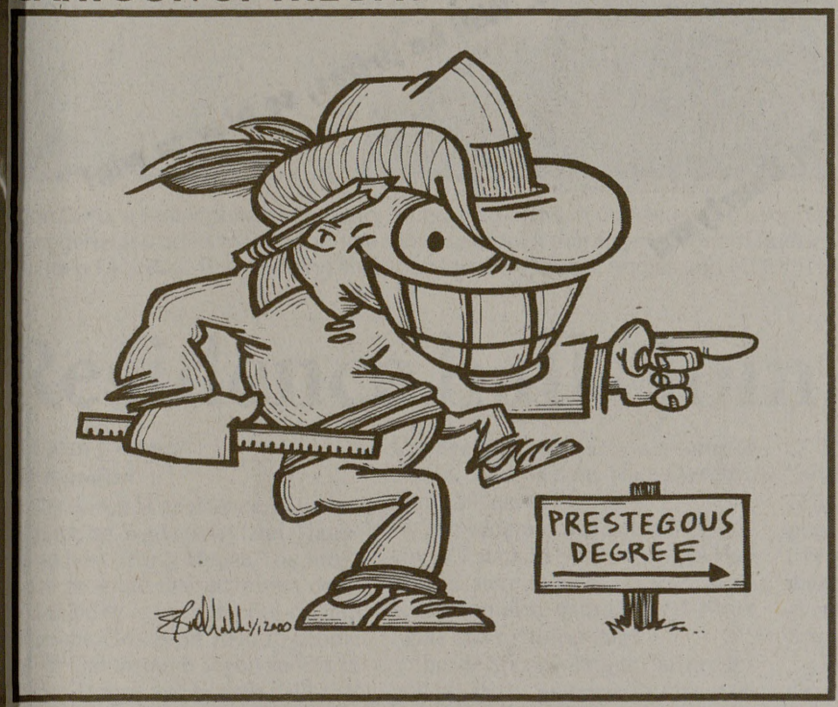
Clinton requested preferred nation trading status with China after allegedly accepting illegal campaign contributions from Chinese corporations, despite China's reluctance to comply with United Nations humanitarian concerns.

He allegedly held White House coffees in exchange for sizable donations to the Democratic Party from attendees. Now Clinton finds himself locked in controversy behind his pardon of a wanted fugitive after the man's ex-wife contributed more than \$1 million to Clinton's causes.

It is Congress' duty to closely examine this apparent favor for Denise Rich. Though the president's power to pardon is constitutionally absolute, impeachment in this case would provide the proper checks and balances in the system to ensure that other presidents do not abuse this privilege.

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CARTOON OF THE DAY



THE UN-CARTOONIST