Light a candle...

Letter to the Editor:

Someone once told me that our ability to speak is the greatest power that man was given. I tend to find this so, and therefore wish to pose a question. If this is such a great power, isn't it paramount that speech be used in the correct manner of justice for mankind?

In reading the editorials and features of our college newspaper, I find myself greatly alarmed and somewhat angered at my fellow colleagues. Are such perpetrators of human justice actually speaking what I read: “Whiteness is a disease,” “... that Hitleresque tool of suppression...” “Burning and rioting have served the purpose...” etc?

Soapboxes have a place in America, they hold soap. Change is a matter of course and necessity in society. Without it, we'd still be walking around with stone axes and bare feet. I am gratified that there are people in this college sensitive to the needs of mankind, — but...

In all of these change-articles I read, written by my distinguished neighbors-of-man, I found only condemnation. Any moron can go around and find fault with the systems of man. Why not? Man made them, therefore they’re imperfect. However, it is in the constructive means, the great American ability of dreams and ideas, that I find gratification, understanding and hope. What good has Mr. Hart given us in raping (not rapping) the Selective Service System? He offered not one single idea to ameliorate such a “Hitleresque tool.” Hebrushed this responsibility off onto the establishment. Knocking the establishment is OK, but unless you’ve got something better, you’ve done me and mankind no service. Vacuums are worthless, and I find anarchy a vacuum of common sense and understanding, especially where races glare at each other nose-to-nose.

If you come up with a good idea on improvement of an old idea, I’ll give my right arm in helping, but if you come up with nothing more than bombarding the old idea, then you cut off your own nose and leave me with nothing but shame.

I find it quite ironical that the only article in the paper coming up with a constructive idea was an advertisement. It was a picture of the Statue of Liberty with a pointing finger, above it was this caption: MAKE AMERICA A BETTER PLACE. LEAVE THE COUNTRY. It was an advertisement for the Peace Corps.

Here’s an old idea that I have yet to see bettered. Try it on for size.

“IT is better to light a candle, then to curse the darkness.”

—Gary Hardis