

Opinions welcome from all sides

"You can't have a wrong opinion," is one of the dimmer statements one can make. If you believe the world is flat, that is your opinion, but it is also demonstrably wrong.

However, as the new opinions editor, it is my job to be dim. As the semester progresses and the letters from students and others pile up, rest assured that the stand you take will play no part in the possibility of your piece appearing in the paper.

If you think the world is flat and you've written a clear, concise letter explaining why you hold this interesting belief, then the chances of your letter running are as good as the next person's.

Liberal or conservative, racist or self-righteous, campus radical or Christian soldier, the opinions of all are welcome and yearned for. The only bias is for short, well-written and timely pieces.

If you would like to submit a letter, follow these simple rules. Don't exceed 200 words and, if you do, don't complain when we have to cut it. Type your letter, double-space it and sign your name. Also, include a typed name, address and telephone number. Mail your letter to *The Alligator*, Opinions, 1105 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL, 32601, or drop it off at our offices on University Avenue across from Barnett Bank.

If you're interested in writing a column regularly or even semi-regularly, don't hesitate to come in. Now, if your main interest is Bulgarian politics we naturally won't be able to devote a column each week

Michael Giltz

THE DILETTANTE

to it. But columns on a broad range of topics from a Greek, minority, administrative or other viewpoint are heartily encouraged.

A few pointers:

■ **Keep it short** — When we ask you to keep it to 200 words, we really mean it. The opinions page receives infinitely more letters than we could ever print and we hate to cut your opinions even a little. So, the 20-line comment on yesterday's front-page story is a heck of a lot more likely to run than a five-page essay. We just don't have the room;

■ **Keep it timely** — If something in the paper or on campus irks you, the sooner you send in your letter the better your chances of being heard. What happened a few days ago is ancient history to a newspaper, so, unfortunately, your beautifully reasoned column about an event that happened three weeks ago is less likely to see print than someone's angry rebuttal to yesterday's editorial. In other words, the sooner the better.

Remember a different opinion is no opinion until other people hear it, so take advantage of this page.

Michael Giltz is the new opinions editor, film critic for Applause and head of the Reitz Union Program Council Film Committee.