

Student Democracy: Where?

Chapter One

For the past few years, this College has prided itself in what it calls "student democracy." For the past few years at least, the students here have been given the opportunity to "govern themselves" through their own governmental setup, through their own student leaders. For countless years, the students have been given the utmost freedom of speech and the utmost freedom of the press.

Yet, while all this may be called student democracy and while all this should most certainly be preserved, the Collegian maintains—and shall forever continue to maintain—that all this amounts to practically nothing when the one fundamental freedom—the freedom of action—is infringed upon or scuttled.

Students have the opportunity to think as they please, yes. They have the opportunity to say what they please. They have the opportunity to print what they please. Yet what is all this worth if they do not have the opportunity to translate their desires and their wishes into practical action designed to promote their own welfare and the welfare of the College as a whole?

Not for a long time has there been shown such utter disregard for student wishes and such flagrant disrespect for student opinion as was shown recently by the Calendar Committee and the College Senate itself.

A few weeks ago, this Committee requested that a student group be formed to present to the Committee—which is composed of faculty and administration members—proposals citing just what the students wanted on the matter of vacations.

The student group was formed immediately by Student Board and its proposals were presented to the Calendar Committee. And the Calendar Committee proceeded immediately to turn thumbs down and reject every single one of them—without so much as specifying a single reason for doing so.

Among these proposals was one asking for a mid-year vacation. Now the Collegian has presented the case for the mid-year vacation so many times, in its editorial columns that it is sick and tired of doing so.

Among other things, the Collegian has shown that the vacation would provide a needed breathing spell between an exciting final exam week and the start of a new semester, that it would produce greater efficiency in the administration because fewer drop-adds would be filed for the simple reason that students would not knowingly schedule follow-up courses for which they are not qualified; that it would expedite the filing of grades for all students so that all concerned would know where and how they stand, that it would eliminate for the student who had failed, unnecessary expenditures for books, room rents, board and other incidentals for which he must pay as long as he remains here, that it would tend to produce greater faculty efficiency by giving professors a full week to grade final examination without being overburdened by teaching at the same time.

What's more, in its survey of the student body, the faculty and the administration, the Collegian has yet to find a single person who is definitely opposed to the mid-year vacation plan. Even members of the Calendar Committee and the Senate itself, favor it, that is, all but a few, except the few who managed to defeat the proposal.

Yet, despite all this—despite the undeniable fact there seems to be no definite opposition to the proposal—the Committee and the Senate joined hands in pickling it without specifying any reason whatsoever.

By all the rules of common sense and all the rules of democratic reasoning, the Committee and the Senate were bound to study these proposals, their merits, their demerits. They were bound, too, to reveal their findings, to reveal their decision, and to reveal—above all—how they arrived at that decision.

Yet they have refused to do all this. And they have refused to give a single reason for doing so. Thus, while allegedly promoting student welfare and student democracy, these groups have in their blindness of those very things, in their utter disrespect, and their utter disregard for student wishes and student opinion, handed the very people whom they are supposed to be helping the worst setback in recent years.

For when a few selected gentlemen delegate to themselves the authority to decide policies of this College without regard to the welfare and the wishes of the students, faculty and administration alike, student democracy and College democracy itself become mere shibboleths.

Now the members of the Calendar Committee and the Senate have every right to disagree with any one. This the Collegian does not even attempt to dispute. But when these same people disregard the wishes of a majority, and when they do so without resort to reason but only through mysterious underhanded and high-handed channels, it is time to call a halt.

For there is a fundamental difference between disagreeing with some one and ignoring him entirely.

Of course, the administration proper may have had nothing to do with this case. In fact, the Collegian is convinced that the high-ranking members of this College did not serve to bring about this action. These men are convinced, just as the Collegian is, that the College can progress only through the cooperation of all its component parts—faculty, administration, students. Once one of these groups is shunted aside—ignored—then the forward march of progress comes to a halt.

And so it is that while the administration may not have taken any direct action in this matter, it is through its very inaction fostering these undemocratic, paternalistic tendencies that threaten to junk all the efforts, which students are now making to revive their governmental setup and breathe some life into it.

Last April, when the new Collegian was born, it warned that it would not hesitate to criticize any body—administration, faculty alumni, students or townspeople—when it was convinced that that body was wrong. Today, therefore, the Collegian mimes no words in saying it is convinced the administration is definitely wrong in not moving to condemn this action by a solidified minority which refuses to acknowledge the truth, a minority which refuses to accept the logical reasoning of the students, faculty and even administration members themselves, a minority which refuses to act openly so that all may pass judgment upon their actions.

Students and administration have today reached a showdown on the issue of student democracy. If the administration proposes to continue promoting student welfare and furthering student democracy, then it will move immediately to investigate the action of the committee and to grant the mid-year vacation.

For if the administration hopes to continue promoting student welfare, it must realize here and now that in this era of changing conditions, it can do so only by positive action and not by negative reaction.

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SENATE WELFARE COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN STUDY OF HOUSING

Mid-Year Vacation Rests With Senate

Unless the College Senate moves to amend the action of the Calendar Committee and its own action in rejecting the proposal for a mid-year vacation, there will be no recess between semesters this year or next year.

LA Guidance In Vocations Planned Here

Don Cresswell '40 Initiates Movement With Help Of Societies, Collegian

A student managed careers conference, designed to furnish pertinent and helpful advice to students in the Liberal Arts school and to aid them in choosing their life work has been organized through the cooperation of the campus honorary societies and the Collegian.

Don M. Cresswell '40, who perceives the necessity of such an undertaking on this campus, called a meeting of all campus honoraries asking their cooperation in the movement.

As carried on in other colleges, the plan calls for annual conferences at which outstanding men in different vocations are invited to speak. These men will be selected by the student committee, through advice from faculty members and professional honoraries of the different curriculums.

The first conference will be held some time before the Easter vacation and arrangements are now being made so that students may be excused from classes during those hours speakers in their particular field are scheduled to speak.

A questionnaire was distributed yesterday to all members of the Liberal Arts School to determine the most popular occupation in which students are interested. From this survey the committee will base its selection of speakers.

Juniors and seniors will be addressed considerably by these conferences, the committee pointed out, because personal conferences with the speaker will follow the talk, at which time students may obtain information and leads for jobs after their graduation. Also, freshmen and sophomores may be helped in deciding upon the courses in which they will major.

The conference only centers about the Liberal Arts school, the committee said, because of the impossibility as yet in covering all the schools in the college.

First Aid Training Course To Be Given

A Red Cross First Aid Instructor Training Course, in cooperation with the local Red Cross Chapter, and sponsored by the School of Physical Education and Athletics, will be held here during the week of January 23.

Conducted by Dr. Bryce A. Newbaker, the course will be open to anyone who has completed the Red Cross Standard Course within the past year.

Students interested in registering for the course are requested to get in touch with Dr. Elwood C. Davis' office in Recreation Hall for further information.

Thomas To Speak Here Tomorrow

Noted Socialist Will Discuss Program Of President

"The Roosevelt Program" as a Socialist sees it" will be the subject of Norman Thomas, politician, pastor, aid author, who will speak tomorrow night at 8:15 in Schwab Auditorium.

A man 55 years of age, whose years have been packed with activity—a born orator—that is the speaker who will address Penn State students tomorrow night. His life has been devoted with unceasing energy to the cause of Socialism.

But Norman Thomas started out to be a minister. After his education at Princeton and at the Union Theological Seminary, he was ordained into the ministry of the Presbyterian church, became pastor of a church in East Harlem, New York, however, he gave up preaching the gospel to preach the dogmas of Socialism.

Mr. Thomas may well be referred to as one of the most-often-quoted men in politics. He has been Socialist candidate for governor of New York, twice for mayor of New York City three times for president of the United States. He has written numerous books, directed the League for Industrial Democracy, and edited a host of publications.

Mr. Thomas' speech is being sponsored by the Forensic Council. Following his address, there will be an open forum for discussion.

Beautiful Girl, Maniac, And Thrills Galore!

A beautiful girl who falls in love with a treacherous maniac, a maniac with boundless charm a human head in a habbox the unearthly screams of an old lady in an old English country home when she realizes that these are but mere moments in the powerful drama, "Night Must Fall," which will be unfolded this Friday, and Saturday in Schwab Auditorium by the Penn State Players.

First introduced on the screen with Robert Montgomery in the lead role of Danny, the congenial psychopathic case who harbors an irrepressible horrible desire, "Night Must Fall" created a sensation in London and New York with a gradual build-up of its subtle terror and stark realistic scenes.

The nerve-racking suspense throughout the drama is maintained through suggestion only—subtle suggestion which speaks an unusual, demonic mind, a mind that would stop at nothing.

P. S. Chem Directory Includes 1000 Alumni

Over 1000 graduates of the School of Chemistry and Physics of the College are listed in the 44th issue of the Directory of Penn State Chemists and Chemical Engineers, issued today.

Fraternity Adopts Social Health Plan

A "Health Insurance" policy, based on the socialized medicine plan, has been adopted by the Phi Sigma Delta Fraternity at its recent meeting to "protect and insure the health and welfare of the members during the school year."

The plan, devised and introduced by Michael Krull, '39, is the first of its kind here and is believed to be the first socialized medicine movement among college fraternities. It will become effective next semester.

Krull, heading a committee of Milton Meyers and Henry Braunstein, seniors, said the plan calls for a yearly payment of \$4.50, in nine monthly installments by each brother and pledge. In return, he stated, the members receive hospitalization in the College infirmary and doctor's fees for any injury or illness "developed" while in school.

Compensation Restricted "However," Krull said, "the present policy entitles a patient 18 days in the Infirmary and three doctor's visits without cost to him. The patient summons any doctor he wishes, but, if the physician charges over three dollars per visit, the "insured" must pay the balance over that sum."

Krull believes that after a year or so, the fraternity may revise the plan to allow the patient four or five doctor's visits as compensation instead of three. He also (Continued On Page Four)

Peel Appoints 2 Committees

Gentilman, Galbreath, Conte, Wright Are Co-Chairmen Of Senior Groups

Senior Invitations will go on sale at Student Union this morning at five cents apiece, Donald W. Wright, co-chairman of the invitations committee, announced late yesterday.

Victor E. Gentilman and William W. Galbreath have been appointed co-chairmen of the Cap and Gown committee and Donald W. Wright and Angelo J. Conte will head the Invitations, Announcements, and Programs committee, Joseph A. Peel, senior class president, announced yesterday.

Other members of the Cap and Gown committee are Henry R. Smith, Jr., Jack R. Cobb, and John H. Atkins.

The Invitations, Announcements, and Programs committee includes Magnus H. Coim, Marshall C. Anderson, and James H. Icke. Both committees will function for the mid-year graduation and orders will be taken at the Student Union office until Saturday of this week.

German Test Today

The German Attainment Test for entrance into the Upper Division of the Liberal Arts School will be held in Room 207, Home Economics Building at 6:30 p. m. today. Students who wish to take this examination should see Prof. Charles G. Wagner in Room 406 Old Main.

Findings Of Collegian To Be Analyzed

Group To Set Forth Plans At Session 4 P. M. Today

Acting to investigate the housing situation in State College and to propose plans for remedial steps if unsatisfactory and inadequate conditions are found, the Senate Committee on Student Welfare will meet this week with the representatives of the Collegian, Department of Architecture, and the Office of the Purchasing Agent.

The session is slated for the Dean of Men's office and is to be held at 4 p. m. today.

The group is expected to pass on the validity of the Collegian housing survey which investigated all rooming houses in State College. Indications are that the survey will form the basis of discussions, concrete proposals, and a possible recommendation to President Ralph D. Hetzel with regard to the number of freshmen to be admitted for 1939-40.

Members of the Senate Committee include Dr. Warren B. Mack, chairman, Dean of Men A. R. Warnock, Dean of Women Charlotte E. Ray, Dr. Joseph P. Ritzke, head of the College Health Service, Dr. Franklin C. Banner, head of the Department of Journalism, and Prof. Ruth E. Graham of the Home Economics Department.

Emanuel Roth '40 will represent the Collegian, Prof. Burton K. Johnson, Department of Architecture, and H. W. Loman, purchasing agent's office.

"Please give our thanks to the fraternities helping with this project. The very fact that the Council thought of and put through such a plan has made for a friendlier feeling in the community to ward the student body."

"The Committee on behalf of the Community sends sincerest thanks to you."

Labor Leader Will Talk Here

Second LA Lecture At 7:30 Thursday To Feature Joel Seidman

Dr. Joel Seidman, staff lecturer for the League of Industrial Democracy will discuss "Recession and Recovery" at the second lecture of the Liberal Arts series in Home Economics auditorium at 7:30 p. m. Thursday.

The lecture is sponsored jointly by Pi Gamma Mu, national social science honor society, and the Liberal Arts Lecture series.

Dr. Seidman received his Ph.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University where he had been an outstanding student leader. During 1933-34 he was a member of the Editorial Research Reports staff in Washington, D. C. For three years he was an instructor in trade unionism at Brookwood Labor College and for a time was acting director.

From June to November 1937 he carried on educational work in Detroit for the United Automobile Workers of America.

East Feels 'isms' Propaganda Most, Survey Shows

Special to the Collegian

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan 9—Communist, Socialist, and Fascist propaganda among college students is being felt mainly in the East Central and Middle Atlantic states. This is shown by a nation-wide poll taken by the Student Opinion Surveys of America. Just as the Dies committee ended its investigation of un-American activities and is making preparation for another.

The committee questioned professors of a New York college and other witnesses when it directed its search for propaganda to the college and university ranks of the nation. What these people have seen and heard went into the record—but what about the views of

the students themselves who are now supposedly being besieged by a multitude of "isms"?

The Student Opinion Surveys of America for the first time point out what the collegians have to say in all sections of the country. Although when the results are taken nationally one student in every 10 says there has been some attempt to influence him, the poll reveals that student bodies in the West and South are very seldom approached with such propaganda.

A staff of interviewers has asked this question of a carefully selected cross-section of students of all descriptions. "Has any attempt been made on your campus to influence you with Communism, Socialism, or Fascism?" By geo-

graphical sections they have answered.

Section	Yes	No
New England	82%	51.8%
Middle Atlantic	19.5%	80.5%
West Central	12.2%	87.8%
Southern	4.2%	95.8%
Far Western	5.8%	94.2%

In the West Central, Southern and Far Western States, it is noted influence is almost negligible. But when all the results are pooled for the entire country, the sections with much higher percentages raise the total figure of "yes" answers to 10.5 per cent.

How are the students affected? They name personal contact with other students as the most frequent way, and in addition

name class discussions, invitations to meetings, printed material, and professors who, as a University of Minnesota freshman put it, "are so 'progressive' I believe they tend toward Communism."

285 Artists' Course Tickets Available At Reduced Prices

Tickets for the remaining four numbers of the 'Artists' Course have been repriced at \$3.85, \$2.85 and \$1.85. There are 285 tickets still available, only 18 of which are \$1.85.

These tickets will be on sale at the Athletic Association ticket office, 107 Old Main, until Monday night when the Eva Jessye Choir will appear in Schwab Auditorium as the second number of the Course.

Dr. Carl E. Matquardt, chairman of the Artists' Course committee, announced yesterday that "if the Course fails to arouse sustained interest among a minimum percentage of the student body, the question arises as to whether the time, effort and money spent upon it each year should be continued."

The Eva Jessye Choir, best known for its introduction and popularizing of the numbers appearing in the late George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," will sing old and new Negro folk songs, modern blues, and numbers from "Porgy and Bess" in the program here Monday.