

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN.
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AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. DIES

Continued From Page 1

THE COLLEGIATE PRESS of the nation is against you and your committee Mr. Dies. With your polished beauty of crum-thumping diction and the rantings of your super-patriotic adherents throughout the country, you have inflated an ant into a Samson.

The basic assumptions upon which the life of your committee rests, Mr. Dies, are unequivocally wrong. Your abusive epithets and noisy platitudes cannot blot out the fact that the Communist Party, at its supreme height of power in this country, cannot muster more than 100,000 votes—100,000 votes, Mr. Dies, out of a population of 130,000,000. Then, too, you can discount the thousands who have been alienated from "the cause" since Russia's "son" with Germany and the rape of Poland.

Do these constitute a danger to our Democratic institutions, Mr. Dies? Perhaps your work would be more effective if you began looking for the inherent defects in a system which can produce revolutionary (though impotent) elements, rather than attacking those elements and sending American citizens under their beds sniffing for time bombs.

IF YOUR INTENTION, Mr. Dies, is to get at the facts and only the facts—why your methods? The only weapon you have used in your warfare is an advance guard of hysterical publicity. Can we expect un-American elements to rush out of their dens of iniquity to your witness chair and repentantly tell all? The Department of Justice, Mr. Dies, can give you a few pointers on how to get facts. The Dillinger's and Capones weren't called to Washington to confess. It isn't human nature to knifely yourself.

Paralyzed with the infirmity of purpose, Mr. Dies, your committee has smeared innocent names, has browbeaten witnesses, raided private correspondence—facets unpalatable to the advocates of democracy with whom you purport to align yourself.

We contend, Mr. Dies, that you have used the committee as nothing more than a spring-board for your own political aspirations.

YOU HAVE SIGNIFIED your intention of investigating American colleges and universities. We are against any such move. No, Mr. Dies, we are not motivated by fear of what little you may find; we are motivated by a different sort of fear, a fear which you may find it hard to understand in the light of your past activities.

You will do nothing more than engender suspicion; you will do nothing more than heighten the irrational hysteria you have sown so prolifically. You will be threatening one of the remaining citadels of liberalism and free thought in the entire world—the American university.

You will find Communists, Nazis and Fascists in our political science classes, Mr. Dies, for we dare to discuss, study and weigh the demerits and merits of their systems. We are confident, too, that your insatiable appetite will be whetted even more when you find our economics classes pregnant with dangers to the American system—for do we not dare to study the totalitarian economy?

Yes, Mr. Dies, there are Communists, Nazis and other political perverts in our American universities. But they are few, they are impotent. If anything, you will admit they are but manifestations of a democracy—a democracy which inculcates its school children with the shibboleth of equal rights to all minorities and the right to think as they please.

We are against you and your committee, Mr. Dies. You have done more harm than good to the cause of democracy.

Most sincerely yours,
PENN STATE COLLEGIAN
 (PER EMANUEL ROTH,
 MANAGING EDITOR)

OLD MANIA

Muting

Lake wildfire, the talk of an epidemic here spread Sunday night until everybody, including Ugly-the-Fat Bulldog, was set to strike and have an early vacation. Some dope called all the houses, dorms, etc., and went so far as to say it was student union calling, that a vacation was to begin Wed (tomorrow). Not true. But not the epidemic. Phi Kappa Sigs are in such tough shape that they declared senior preference this week in their men's rooms. Those calls about the vacation remind us of the time Orson Wells invaded us from Mars. Long distance phones were buzzing and all the kids set to check out. If Prexy Hetzel gets his hands on that stupid nut. Whew! His phone is still ringing with inquiring calls.

The Customer's Rite

"Dear Maniac,
 Upon phoning 3rd floor Mac Hall one evening, I was greeted by the following:
 "Good evening, this is the Hugh Nelson MacAllister Hall, that building immediately to the left and slightly to the rear of Old Main building, and directly to the right of the Home Economics Building.
 "It was originally constructed as a dormitory for men, but due to inadequate facilities it was converted into a girls' dormitory which now houses 140 glamorous freshman girls. May we contact one for you?"

(signed) A Bewildered Fresh
With this epidemic travelling thru the dorms, we wonder how that silly fresh could speak all that in one breath.

Add Epidemic

The pheeps have a suite in the infirmary. The lucky staffs. Evon Wilson passed out at the sea house. Another case. For Doc Rite-nour. Frank Zumbro is sick, too. But because Jean Lawrence is seen so much with Gen Parrish.

Tom Smith, sae, was flunking the marriage course until last week. Last week, he was married.

Add Letterbox

Dear Maniac,
 Your cohort, the Campuser, is a little slow on the draw. The water-pistol battle at the tetchu house which he reported in the last issue was ended by an armistice on Oct. 14. An honorable peace has signed on the premises ever since that date. Yours for more TIMELY news.

(signed) The Thelach Boys
Great boys, these Thelach Boys

Add Love Life

Bob Casselberry blind-dated Louise Betsch the other nite. It was the second co-ed he's dated this year. He's going to do a lot more dating from now on, we hear. Forrest Price, phidlet pledge who, during rushing season, guaranteed five different houses he was going their way, pinned Dotie Savard. But with his pledge pin, Dave Martz, tau phi, delted Catherine O'Conner an oop. Janet Twichell is out of that Washington infirmary and all mended. Now we're wondering what Don Eya will do about Marjie Strode. They say Jack Mahoney, phidlet, is carrying a torch for Helen Gillette. Note to Mahoney. Talk it over with Mark Vinzant.

Wanted

A hundred thousand bucks from some wealthy alumnus to start the ball rolling on a much-needed student-union bldg. We guarantee the donor his name grooved in ageless stone across the broad portals. You rich kids (the two of you), talk to your old man over Xmas vacation.
 Can't wait for Henry V. Poor to get going on those murals. His description in the last Collegian of the painting was beautiful.
 Incidentally, will anyone raise their hand if they know anything about that Recreation cabin last year's senior class presented as a gift? Is it or is it not built? If so, why?
 Saturday's Phila Evening Bulletin carried Ruth Kennedy's picture (she's the Harvest Queen) at the top of their front page.

For "His" Christmas

NECKTIES

1.00 to 2.50

ARGYLES

by MacGregor 1.65 to 1.95

Famous Fownes GLOVES

2.00 to 5.00

Jack Harper

W. COLLEGE AVE. STATE COLLEGE

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Notices of meetings to be published in this column may be left at Student Union Office in Old Main up to 1 p.m. on the day preceding publication.

TODAY

International Relations Club meeting, Room 418, Old Main, at 7:15 p.m.
 Meeting of business staff of the Portfolio, Room 314, Old Main, at 7 p.m. Sophomores and Juniors report also.

Meeting of student chapter of A.S.C.E., Room 107, Main Engineering, at 7:30 p.m. Speakers—Professors Robert E. Minshall and Harry N. Benkerl on "Structural Steel".

TOMORROW

All interested in taking a special train to Pittsburgh and vicinity sign up at Student Union immediately.
 Men's Outing Club meeting 418 Old Main at 7 p.m.
 Meeting of Phi Kappa post-poned indefinitely.

MISCELLANEOUS

Portfolio now on sale at Student Union.
 Skull and Bones shingles available at Student Union.
 Phi Kappa Phi vs. Tyone High School faculty in basketball at Tyone Friday.
 Reservations for Dix Dock Christmas party at Student Union.

LA Group Aims At Exemptions

Ruling On Extra Credits Scheduled For Discussion

Definite decision on a proposal that students rating a "3" in a course be excused from taking a final in that course will be made by the Liberal Arts School Council at a meeting in 305 Old Main at 7 p.m. Thursday.
 A two-week investigation of the project has been made among students and faculty by a Council committee, according to Leonard Cooper, 40 president of the group. Council action will be in the form of a resolution which will be presented to Dean Charles W. Stoddard.

The Council is also expected to make a definite ruling on the number of extra credits which may be earned by a student in the School of Liberal Arts. Hitherto this matter has been left to the decision of individual student advisers.
 A resolution that a course, in interviewing be given next semester has already been presented to Dean Stoddard.

CINEMANIA

With Blondie engrossed in the theories of child training, Dagwood trying to dispose of an apartment house so uniquely designed that nobody wants it, Baby Dumpling adjusting himself to school routine, and Daisy, the dog, unaccountably missing, "Blondie Brings up Baby" is more hilariously hectic than any of the preceding Bumstead comedies.

Like all the others in this series "Blondie Brings up Baby" is based on Chic Young's popular cartoon strip, with Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms, and Daisy, the dog, still filling the key roles.
 Take two hours off from studying for pre-Christmas bluebooks and final due assignments to see the Bumstead family trying to solve its problems "Blondie Brings up Baby" will be shown at the State Theatre Thursday and Friday.

Ag. Ec. Society To View Plant Grading

Singing out for discussion of the topic, "Fruit and Vegetable Grading," the Agricultural Economics Society will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. today in Room 318, Old Main.

Cabinet Meeting Scheduled Tonight Held Yesterday

Because of a time confliction with the Artists' Course, the All-College Cabinet will not meet tonight. The Cabinet meeting was held last night after the Collegian had gone to press.
 The Collegian will print a complete story on the meeting in the Friday issue.

Letter Box

To the Editor,

Penn State Collegian,
 The following is the statement which has been signed by many educators on Penn State's campus and sent to Washington in an effort to stop the Dies "Un-American Committee" before it is too late.

In recent years American educators have been examining critically the contribution of education to American life. There has been general recognition that many changes have to be introduced into both curriculum and administration. Such changes are considered vital if education is to adequately serve its purpose of being a preparation for life in a society beleaguered by unemployment, wars, and the threat of wars, the breakdown of traditional faiths.

All recent studies, where that of the American Youth Commission, or of the Educational Policies Committee, or of the Regents in inquiry, recognize the needs for promotion among young people in the schools and colleges a greater awareness of the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy. In this respect student organizations such as the American Student Union have done much to encourage among undergraduates a creative concern with the social and economic problems of our times.

Without endorsing its specific program—youth-led organizations must inevitably make mistakes and that is part of learning the vocation of leadership in a democracy—we believe that the ASU is making a real contribution by challenging young people to think about their place and responsibilities in a democratic society. It is our opinion that the problem education faces is not so much with what students are saying about politics and economics, but that they should be sufficiently concerned to have an opinion at all.

Patience at this moment the educational system must encourage students to examine the full range of institutional alternatives confronting mankind in terms of the values associated with American democracy. It must not give the impression that it frowns upon independence of thought by yielding up academic freedom in the name of combatting "radicalism in the universities".

We believe that persons may disagree with every policy advocated by the ASU, and nevertheless, recognize that to limit the right of students to organize and discuss problems of social policy is to undermine the democratic role of education.
 "The world is sick, deadly sick" a renowned scholar recently exclaimed. In such circumstances it would be dogmatic presumption to forbid our young people from exploring any path of inquiry and analysis.

Chemical Society Marks Anniversary

The local chapter of Phi Lambda Upsilon, honorary chemical society, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a banquet in St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, yesterday. Approximately 135 persons attended.
 Principal speaker was Grover C. Chandler, head of the department of chemistry, who told of the College as it was in 1914 when the honorary was installed. Three of the 14 charter members present were: O. J. Vogel, Dean Williams, and James H. Olevine, professor of chemistry. Donald S. Cryder, professor of chemical engineering, acted as toastmaster.

WE WOMEN

OUR EPIDEMIC OF ILLNESS in the dormitories and downtown is the main topic of conversation now. Everyone is asking "Is it serious? What can be done? Will I get it? Will the College stop classes? And hadn't I better run home to mother?"

Yes, there is an "epidemic"—if you want to call it that. Approximately a hundred women have had the same minor illness, in varying degrees. But the illness is not at all serious, nor will it be fatal. Right now you can discount at least half of the reports you hear as being exaggerated.

What we women must do, is keep our heads. Becoming nervous wrecks about the thing won't help at all, especially since there is nothing to be nervous about. Many women are really ill, just as many are merely scared. If you are not well, see the health service, if you are scared, forget it. The situation will probably be cleared up in a few days. If it isn't, then something will be done.

But the idea of going wild with rumors of disease, epidemics, and school closing is ridiculous. Naturally we're all anxious for Christmas vacation. But to start that vacation a week early and make up the time later, unless there is good reason to do so, would be to say the least—stupid.

Why should we students, who are natural alarmists and very, very vacation conscious, be the case? While the administration is spiking as many rumors as it can, it will not overlook the facts.

Besides these hundred women who are too ill to attend meals or classes there are undoubtedly many others who have had mild attacks but have not reported to the health service. Something is wrong and of course, the students want to know what it is.

Also, the women who are healthy are worrying themselves to the point of illness and wearing themselves out taking care of ill friends and roommates. Hence, a large proportion of the women students are in an unnatural condition either physically or nervously.

This condition will not continue if the administration cannot discover the cause and give definite instructions to students as to how they may avoid it. It will probably consider suspending school until it can solve the problem. But this is very unlikely.

The next few days will mark a crisis in the "epidemic." The most sensible attitude is that there is nothing to worry about, if the

consider plans for future programs. The club will invite representatives from well-known railways to present talks and movies here, and is preparing to hold an exhibition of scale models of locomotives constructed by club members.

DID YOU KNOW

That Penn State is the fourth largest fraternity school in the United States?

Model Railroad Club Will Hold Exhibition

A recently-organized campus group of locomotive-conscious students, the Penn State Model Railroad Club, met last night to

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 Moccasin Style 1.95
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 Time Comfort

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 Moccasin Style
 to And Many Others
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PENN STATE CLUB ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ALL-COLLEGE DANCE OF 1940 . . .

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Sat., January 6, 1940 Rec Hall
 Dancing 9 to 12 Admission—37½c per person

"Make this the Number One Occasion On Your New Year's List!"