

## THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

Successor to the Penn State Collegian, established 1904, and the Free Lance, established 1897.  
Published daily except Sunday and Monday during the regular College year by the students of The Pennsylvania State College. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934, at the post-office at State College, Pa., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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Saturday Morning, November 9, 1940

### An Open Letter To Ex-Editor Harry Henderson

Dear Harry,

This is not a reply to you but a reply to the hundreds of other people who have called into question Collegian's editorial of October 8 supporting Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler's statement to the Columbia faculties. To an extent, I think it is the reply you will want to hear. It is a reply I am glad to give.

The Collegian has gone to war blindly, you say. No, Harry, the Collegian has not gone to war at all. America has gone and the Collegian with it. No neutral nation trades destroyers to a warring nation, provides it with all arms possible, accepts its naval bases, and remains neutral in any but a technical sense.

I am as sorry as you that we went, but that is not the point. Our action now should be with regard to our present position, certainly not in regard to any past position, and only with great danger in regard to some possible future position which may never materialize.

Our present position is one diametrically opposed to Germany's. Yes, democracy v. fascism. You say it is idealistic. Let me suggest that those two terms clothe two of the coldest blooded economies the world has yet seen. Without an ounce of idealism, Harry, you can rush to the defense of American democracy. At the price of insecurity your democracy gives you your own self-determination and a level of living better than you would have under fascism. Your democracy and the vital resources and allies that make it possible are now threatened.

Germany's imperialistic economy and ours, I am sure, can not long exist side by side in the world. If we want to preserve our own self-determination I think we must be ready for a showdown sooner or later. The only way out I can see is an immediate British victory. Otherwise, if we are not ready for a showdown, we, like France, may become a puppet nation subject to every whim of an iron master.

Those are the reasons, Harry.

Now let us talk of the manifestations, one manifestation in particular. In my editorial supporting Dr. Butler I took one position I no longer hold. By implication, I rejected free speech as dangerous. I revise that proposition now to suggest that we need free speech, but let us be fully aware of the forces which would disunite us.

The gravest danger of all, Harry, is one which you think I encouraged: That dictatorship will come on us from within rather than from without.

It seems to me that we can avoid this with a real will to govern ourselves. Even in the total state, the ruler must govern under the white heat of public opinion. A dictator is no more able than the leader of a democracy to go too far against public opinion. The difference is that in a democracy the populace forms its own opinions, while in the total state the leader forms the popular opinion. Insofar as he controls the means of disseminating information, he can do as he pleases.

I would be willing to accord unlimited power to a man I felt loved democracy, a man I felt would turn back that power once the crisis was over. But I would deny any attempt to harness the press or the public mind. I would urge, however, that the public mind of its own volition do all in its power to present a united front to any crisis which faces America.

One other thing, Harry. I should like to quote Solicitor General Biddle: "Hysteria is often the unhappy result of patriotism. In our anxiety to prevent the spread of Communism, we find ourselves first suspecting all those who have liberal thoughts. Next, and quickly, we are denouncing them as traitors. Epithets like 'agitation,' 'radicals,' 'anarchists' fly wildly about. And, of course, they are alleged to be part of the ever-swelling fifth column. It is only a brief step now to open attack and assault, and liberty for some is gone. Of such stuff is fascism made."

Sincerely yours,

Adam A. Smyser '41,

Editor The Daily Collegian.



### THE MANIAC

#### I Never Give Up

On the subject of politics we suggest that some of you Ath Hall gals let Jean Waldron know the election is over and tell her to take that button off. It's more fun collecting fraternity pins anyway, isn't it, Leslie?

What we would like to see is more originality and initiative among coeds as displayed the other night by Campus Queens Harriet Stubbs and Jane Kintner. Janie and Stubby found themselves with a couple of boxes of marshmallows on their hands and proceeded to light a fire in an ashtray and have a marshmallow roast! Just the girl scout coming out in them we suppose.

#### Nice Going, Knobby

We nominate Arita (Knobby) Hefferan to write an advice to the Lovelorn column for this rag. Any gal that can get (fifty-five) gals dates, sights-unseen, should certainly be able to patch up a lot of foundering romances. Knobby performed this gigantic feat for dear old Pan-Hel which is playing host to 60 visiting coed representatives.

The job really was tremendous and self-sacrificing in our mind. Think of a Penn State coed fixing up even one import let alone 60! What will Vera say, Knobby?

#### Not Guilty!

We want it understood here and now, now and forever, and for life everlasting, that last Saturday's editorial was not the opinion of this columnist, and we hereby disclaim our guilt in the matter.

We mean the editorial endorsing Wendell L. Willkie for President of the United States.

It's not that we hate to back a loser, it's just that our great-great-grandfather, who voted for Thomas Jefferson, would roll over in his grave if he thought any of his descendants ever directly or indirectly supported a Republican candidate for office.

We hereby state that we are one member of the Collegian staff who was not for Willkie.

While we are still in a bellyaching mood, we are going to take a crack at the movies. We refer to those Fourth of July addresses the flicks are running to plead for national unity. They are barking at a false bogeyman but if they don't stop their moronic preaching they will darn soon kick up a real life bogeyman. They underestimate the intelligence and inner nature of us, and I mean all of us. The best way to make the American people do something, is to tell them not to do it, and vice versa. We don't like to be told.

## Armistice

### -Day-

MEETING

Monday, Nov. 11

Speaker

James Van Zandt

Rep. 23rd Congressional District

The Time: 11 A.M.

The Place:  
Schwab Auditorium

Classes Will Be Excused  
For This Meeting

EVERYONE  
OUT!!

This Ad Contributed By  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

#### Letters to the Editor—

### Congratulations From A Much-Respected Reader

To the Editor:

Accept my congratulations upon the Collegian's coverage of the election as it appeared in the issue of November 6. This is a journalistic accomplishment of which any publication might be proud. This, added to the very creditable record you have already made since entering the daily field, gives your publication an enviable position in the field of college journalism.

Sincerely yours,  
R. D. Hetzel,  
President

### The Women's Editor Goes On Pan

To the Editor:

That crack in your "We, the Women" column about Houseparty imports should go a long way toward decreasing your Collegian subscription list. We have yet to make the acquaintance of any coed who could measure up to the standards of the imports in our fraternity. We don't hear any complaints from those "campus queens" who would be an asset to Houseparty weekend. By the way, what are the rates to Coney Island?

Respectfully yours,  
George F. Dorrance '44  
Jack Saling '44

Editor's Note:—Imagine if you can the editor's position. He had an import. (P.S. — The women's editor had an import herself, male, of course.)

### Caustic Comment, Is He Right?

To the Editor:

A land grant college should teach above all other things the principles of democracy. Your editorials have been far from democratic.

Yours very truly,  
John M. Keichline, M.D.  
Huntingdon, Pa.

### Another Note For The Book

To the Editor:

Even if 99 per cent of the imports looked like Coney Island pickups (which, of course, is the product of a warped mind) they still looked (and were) a lot better than this bunch of second-rate trollops that we know as Penn State coeds.

Robert H. Leech '42

### Open House Delayed

Formal open house for the Library has been postponed until a later date when all the new equipment and furniture has arrived from contracts under the General State Authority. Willard P. Lewis, head librarian, has announced.

### NIBBLING AT THE NEWS

J. GORDON FAY

#### Prepared

If ships of an invader enemy were to steam within several hundred miles of our eastern coast and from there release flights of bombing planes against our vital industrial section, would not utter, morale-damaging havoc result, particularly if such an attack were

This question has probably come up at least once in every bull-session in the past year. The answer has always been to the effect that such a surprise bombing would lead to a "hell of a mess," and that such a surprise

something should be done to guard against it.

Thursday's papers tell us that the something has been done. In the event of even the suspicion of a national emergency, 10,000 civilians, organized by the American Legion, will man 650 observation posts throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and all of New York east of the Hudson river.

When and if an enemy plane is sighted or heard, the man on duty in each post will call "Army Flash" into a telephone. His message will be immediately relayed by long distance to the Army Information Center, his observations will be plotted and figured with others sent in, and invader planes will very quickly meet a reception committee of fast interceptor ships. The Coast Guard will also fill an important part in this system.

With this establishment of the first permanent volunteer air defense system in this country, it would appear that the government is at last beginning to take notice of what competent military experts have been saying for months—that the primary defense need of our country is a topnotch air defense, coupled with a large navy, rather than a huge land force and a "green" one at that.

Let us hope, however, that the only service these volunteer observers see will be in practice.

### ASCE To Hear Aluminum Research Expert Monday

E. C. Hartman, research engineer from the Aluminum Company of America at New Kensington, will speak before the student chapter of the ASCE in Room 109 Main Engineering at 7:30 p.m. Monday evening.

Mr. Hartman will speak on the topic, "The Structural Uses of Aluminum." A sound moving picture film entitled "Aluminum, Mine to Metal," will also be shown. Everyone is invited.

Watch This Paper For An Announcement

of the

GRAND RE-OPENING

Of Our

NEWLY REMODELED STORE

While the interior of our store has been completely renovated and business is going on as usual, the exterior is not quite finished yet. When that is completed we plan to hold a gigantic Re-Opening. Watch the pages of this paper for further announcement.

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**fromm's**

Opposite Old Main - State College