

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday Morning, April 18, 1941

Straightening The Draft

National selective service headquarters last week took a stand on draft of college men that will ease the break from campus to camp grounds—if it is followed out.

Until last week's action there was no indication how college men would fare after their automatic deferment expires July 1, 1941.

It would have been necessary to call them in the middle of a semester in many cases, forcing them to lose not only the year spent in camp, but the semester interrupted, in all, a year and a half.

This would hardly be in keeping with the spirit of the selective service, aimed by its own definition at building a national defense "with the least possible disruption of the social and economic life of the nation."

College men have never asked not to carry their fair share of the defense load. Their only request has been to be allowed to help in the best way possible and with the least disruption possible.

A Gallup poll released this week indicates that the American public believes in college training and would prefer not to see it disrupted by the draft. America was asked, "Should college students be permitted to finish their present college course before being drafted into the army?" It returned the overwhelming affirmative of 69 per cent.

To a second question the affirmative was even higher "Should students studying to be doctors and engineers be permitted to finish their present training course before being drafted into the army?" "Yes," said 87 per cent.

In view of these sentiments, last week's order on the draft is favorable but somewhat short of what the American public desires.

The addition to the Selective Service Regulations says this:

"... in any case where unusual individual hardship will result (from immediate draft), the local board may... postpone the time when the registrant shall report for a period not to exceed 60 days, subject, however, to further postponement for good cause."

This means simply that if a student is registered for a semester's work, the local board may consider it an unusual individual hardship to interrupt this period of training and may grant postponement of induction until the end of that particular session.

It is the unspoken assumption in Washington that in a great majority of cases this temporary postponement will be granted by local boards. Even so, this is only temporary postponement while the American public favors postponement until graduation.

One thing remains to be seen: the spirit in which this ruling will be received by the local draft boards. It is nobody's secret that much of the material going out from Washington to the 6,400 local draft oligarchies has passed by the board with less than passing attention.

With fingers crossed, college and university leaders in Washington—and only to a slightly less degree, draft officials themselves—are hoping that local boards will polish up their glasses at least long enough to read this and other important information that they will find in their mail.

Nibbling

At The News

with ROBERT LANE

War Stories

As the war closes in on the United States, mainly through the extension of the Western Hemisphere to include Greenland, the American citizens are being deluged with some of the spiciest propaganda morsels reminiscent of World War No. 1.

The latest rumor dates back to November 8, 1939 when a bomb exploded in a Munich Beer Hall several minutes after Herr Hitler had left the tavern. Der Fuehrer had been the guest speaker at the gathering which was held for the purpose of celebrating the "putsch" of 1923.

Rumor, the origin of which is always a mystery, would have us believe that Air Chief Goering and Press Agent Himmler were responsible. The reason, both Nazi leaders were in Berlin at the time, and had not attended the gathering.

Another nicely woven little tale explains why Switzerland has been able to maintain neutrality, which incidentally, is a real neutrality. Current rumors are that Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, Hess and Rosenberg, the latter the Chancellor's secretary, have large deposits in Swiss banks, just in case the Nazi tourists return home persuaded by British and Greek bayonets.

A more probable explanation of why Switzerland has been absent from the war to date might be that the German tanks do not operate easily on skis, but that would ruin the story so let's skip it.

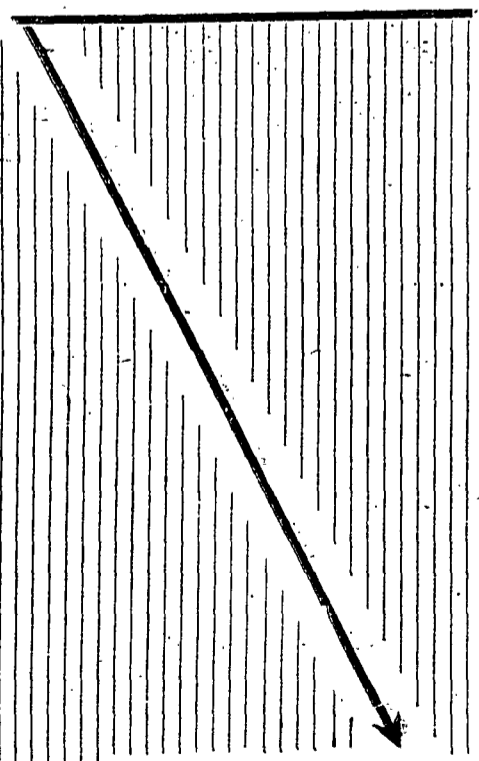
If there is any dissension in Germany it only involves one and one half million people. This estimate is probably true, but they are not dangerous, because by coincidence, there are exactly one and one half million people in the Nazi concentration camps.

It is much easier to swallow the numerous stories dealing with the gentleman who operates the heel in the Southern part of Europe. Premier Mussolini is also the heel in the Axis and provides the monkey wrench when the Nazi machine begins moving too smoothly.

The Italian soldiers are reported to be sending post-cards home from Albania which state, "We were pushed back 40 miles yesterday, 62 today, with any kind of luck we will be home tomorrow."

As for the Fascist cause, the troops in Albania are in constant danger of not being able to stage an "Italian Dunkerque," because a large part of the Italian Navy is under water, and they aren't submarines.

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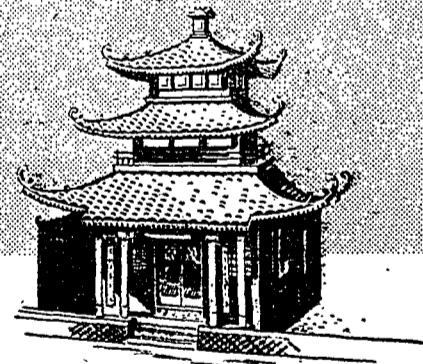
CLIFF'S

145 S. ALLEN STREET

MODERATE PRICES



Every operator in this telephone exchange must speak four languages!



Each operator in San Francisco's Chinatown telephone exchange must speak English plus at least three of the five Chinese dialects—Som Yup, Soy Yup, Heong Sow, Gow Gong and Aw Duck—in order to handle calls. For the average Chinese understands no dialect but his own!

Since there is no Chinese alphabet, the 36 page directory, listing 2200 subscribers, can't be printed in the usual way. It is handwritten—then reproduced by engraving and printing processes. Subscribers are listed by streets, instead of alphabetically. And operators must almost know the book by heart, for the Chinese seldom call by number—but by name and address.

Here is a Bell System exchange that in many ways is unique. But it is just like thousands of others in giving good service to telephone users.

