

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Wednesday Morning, April 30, 1941

Baird, Doherty Draft Plea Puts College 'On The Spot'

Like the goose who laid the golden egg and found that it wouldn't hatch out golden goslings, All-College president-elect Robert D. Baird '42 and Gerald F. Doherty '42, incoming vice-president, will take office on inauguration day, next Monday, but draft officials have notified them that they are eligible for conscription July 1.

Already deferred, the two All-College leaders seem destined for army duty, leaving the Cabinet with a problem which it has never before faced in its short history. But this problem is not half as difficult as that of the administration's, because the All-College constitution provides that the senior class president becomes chairman of the group, not president, in case of two vacancies.

On the other hand, College officials have been placed in a precarious spot. In their hands rests the fate of Baird and Doherty, who need only form 42 (an application for deferment) to be signed indicating that the draftee here is indispensable for national defense.

But there's the catch, and the reason for some criticism heaped on the heads of College officials. Students and faculty alike have unjustly criticized these men for refusing to grant Baird and Doherty this reprieve, which would hardly be questioned by the local draft boards.

However, those behind the scenes, approve the stand taken by the College in denying Baird and Doherty form 42, because it would be establishing a dangerous precedent. The reason is buried in the draft board's requirements for issuance of form 42 in a phrase, "indispensable for national defense."

Neither Baird or Doherty are indispensable. The College realizes the importance of student government and its intricate duties, but the tasks are not so difficult that men appointed to handle these affairs cannot be replaced. If both men were excused, why not a football captain, Athletic Association president, track manager, editor of The Daily Collegian, Interfraternity Council president? This is the problem which faces the College.

The solution? The only obvious one. At a time when the nation is slowly throwing its manpower into concerted action and grasping into college campuses for its physical backbone, the College would be disloyal and discriminating if it were to consider applications beyond the line of national defense.

No one wants to see either Baird or Doherty leave the most important posts on campus. No one will dispute the fact that Baird and Doherty are probably most capable in handling Penn State's student government. But, again, no one should criticize the College for its stand.

What to do now? Take the pressure from the College on such problems and give it whole-hearted support toward a task which is extremely distasteful.



A LEAN AND HUNGRY LOOK

This is very nearly our final utterance. We planned to produce an essay of lasting beauty and a joy forever, but time has gone on apace and left us, as it were, with our masterpiece uncompleted. Unlike our colleagues, our song as yet unsung, we shall not call this our swan song, for has not science proved beyond reasonable doubt that a dying swan sings no song? As a matter of fact we've been thinking seriously of slipping some swan a stiff shot of prussic acid and seeing personally just what the results might be. Thus far we haven't been able to find a swan with the proper mental outlook.

But we digress . . . we shall call this, our anti-penultimate effort, a low moan. If we were vain we should call it our own little gotterdammerung, but somehow that word always smacks of profanity. As is evident to the trained mind, we are in something of a quandry. How best bring down the curtain . . . Let us have naught of reminiscence. you, gentle reader, know as well as we do just what has been happening during the past several years. Frankly we haven't given too much of a damn, things being what they are.

Ah, the younger generation, disillusioned and cynical what will be their fate? People have been asking that question for the past several centuries. The answer is obvious; things go on in very much the same way. Only the generation with the undecided fate worries about the matter. If you'd care to stop by we're delivering a little lecture this afternoon which we shall call, for lack of a better title, "Plato's Republic."

If it is not too much to say, we have had quite a decent time composing these literary faux pas. There have of course been incidents, repercussions, etc. etc. For one reason or another we have not entirely succeeded in winning a host of ardent admirers. Which is a source of infinitesimal pain to us. We had such high hopes; such brave ambitions. Since that time we shall have the opportunity to air our prejudices in the public press grows short, we would like to say to those whom we have perhaps offended . . . we meant every last word of it. Our high opinions concerning pacifists, psychologists, and the Holier-Than-Thou League have not waned with the passage of time, nay they have increased.

It's going to be a great future. No doubt we'll see you all next at Armageddon: we'll be wearing a black tulip in our hair so you'll know us. We're full of doubts and indigestion: the world's going to pot, and we're going right along, dear children. Remembering the unhappy fate of Cassandra, we say no more. You'll excuse us, we're going to knit a balaclava helmet for the British War Relief. Remember that black tulip. It's been fun, rather. Next week we shall have more to say—and the republic stands.

CASSIUS

Students Pessimistic On War Outlook

AUSTIN, Texas, April 29.—Regarding the war, campus opinion is again today shown on the pessimistic side.

Step by step, we hear every day, The United States is getting closer to war. The nation's youth, many of whom are already in the service of the country, look on apprehensively. College men mark time in the classroom, awaiting their June 1 call to the draft army. Bull session topic number-one is this: "Will we have to fight Germany again? When?"

But modern war has taken a new twist. Few countries have officially "declared war" recently. Others, and especially the United States, appear to be fighting economically and diplomatically without the actual shooting of guns.

Does college opinion hold that our aid to Britain and other democracies, our attitude toward Germany, in effect constitutes "war"? To bring campus thought into focus on a nation-wide basis Student Opinion Surveys of America presented this question to a sampling of the enrollment: "Would you say that the United States is in effect already at war with Germany?"

The results:
YES Said 76 per cent
NO Said 24 per cent
(Only 1.3 per cent said they had no opinion on this issue)

Three-quarters is a heavy majority and leaves no doubt as to the tenor of student opinion regarding our current part in the European conflict. This is not to say, however, that American students want to go to war. In numerous polls Student Opinion Surveys has found college youth favors doing all we can to stay out.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Student Union dance, Armory, 4 p. m.
AAUP Room 305 Old Main, 7:30 p. m.
Iota Lambda Sigma, Room 405 Old Main, 7 p. m.
Co-Edition, Room 318 Old Main, 5 p. m.

Dr. Birl E. Shultz, director of the N. Y. Stock Exchange Exchange Institute, will speak on "The Work of the Stock Exchange," Room 121 Sparks, 4 p. m. Motion pictures of stock exchange operations will be shown.

All sophomore candidates for cheerleading report to Walt Sotung in front of Old Main at 7 p. m.

Blue Key, Delta Tau Delta house, 7 p. m. All active members are requested to be present.

TOMORROW

All candidates for the freshman tennis team must sign up for the tournament at the Athletic Store before noon.

Pre-Med Society movies, 7:30 p. m., H. E. Auditorium.

Student Radio Committee, 318 Old Main, 7 p. m.

Chem. Student Council, 305 Old Main, 7 p. m.

Alpha Phi Omega, 418 Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

Senior Award Committee, 302 Old Main, 8:00 p. m.

MISCELLANEOUS

The observatory will open at 9:30 p. m. instead of 8:30.

INFIRMARY CASES

Kurt Goldmann '42, fractured femur; Leopold Konigstein '42, Eloise P. Gillis '44, Richard L. Woff '44, Charles A. Martin '44, William F. Daly '44, Irvin P. Thompson '43, Ben C. Kline '41, Jerome H. Blakeslee '43, Bernard Schwartz '43, Robert A. Coudres '44, Gustav J. Henrich '43, German measles; George N. Wendt '43, Dorothy N. Lamb, observation; Gerald M. Ebersole '41, mumps; Katharine E. Schott '43, grippe; Van A. Hartman, pulled muscle; S. Elizabeth Musser '42, bronchitis; Charles E. Weigel '43, toe infection; Marian L. Mitchell '44, gastro enteritis; Jean F. Brown '43, phlebitis.

Cabinet Accepts Changes

(Continued from Page One)
Cabinet's approval to hold Athletic Association nominations May 5, followed by the election on May 12.

David I. Finkle '41 reported that the student exam file will be located in Rooms 5 and 6, Library, from May 17 to June 5. The file will be open from 4 p. m. to 10 p. m. each day.

Two Men's Halls

Appoint Officers

Watts Hall officers for 1941-42 were installed Monday night and Jordan Hall officials announced.

Watts Hall: Donald J. Cassidy '42, president; Edward P. Putkoski '43, vice-president; Gerald Osterman '43, secretary; Robert F. Burak '42, treasurer; and Niles L. Keesler '44, athletic manager. IMA representatives are Paul C. Mall '42, James F. Fisher '43, and Ralph W. Yerger '44.

Jordan Hall: Richard N. Stevenson '42, president; Charles F. Maclay '43, vice-president; Robert S. Yost, secretary; William D. Detrick '43, treasurer; Dave E. Ward '43, athletic manager; and Lewis J. Palazzi '42, social chairman.

Irving Hall officials will be elected tomorrow night.

Invitations Deadline

The deadline for obtaining senior commencement invitations and announcements at Student Union has been extended to 5 o'clock today, the committee announced yesterday.

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