

Editorials and columns appearing in The Daily Collegian represent the opinions of the writer. They make no claim to reflect student or University consensus. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor.

## Pre-Conceived Pattern

Every once in a while someone takes a crack at the American newspapers for their failure to report the news fully and accurately. Usually it doesn't matter, and the press continues on its merry way, reporting half-facts and, willingly or unwillingly, distorting public opinion. If the accuser is someone like George Seldes, who makes a living by publishing a newsletter which exposes "falsehood" in the press, the newspapers just don't say anything about it and the majority of the people never hear of the charges. If the charges are levelled by a respectable group, such as the Commission on Freedom of the Press, the editors shrug their shoulders and make excuses. Nothing tangible ever results.

In the current issue of Harper's Magazine, one of the oldest and most respectable in the country, Fred M. Hechinger, an experienced reporter, has criticized the tendency of American newspapers to publicize that news matter which fits into a pre-conceived pattern. He cites recent examples—including the false predictions on the "Dewey victory"—to show how wrong the press has been in its recent judgments, and he gives instances in which important facts were completely overlooked by the press—facts necessary to an informed judgment of conditions abroad by the American public.

Definitely, there is something wrong with the American press. Too often editors have formed a patterned view of the world which will not allow them to print information running counter to the pattern. The public depends on the press to get the information it needs to form public opinion. If it cannot receive all the facts—instead of the half-facts it now gets—the public will be unable to make intelligent decisions and may even make highly erroneous ones. It has happened before—although not many of us remember how the Hearst newspapers stamped this nation into a war with Spain in 1898.

The press of America is free to print what it wishes, but the essential is that the editors have free minds which do not force their thought into pre-determined channels and do not make pre-suppositions before the facts—all the facts—are known. If America's editors do not learn to think freely for themselves, they may well guide this nation down a ruinous path by misinforming the public.

—L. D. Gladstone.

### Use Suggestion Box

A student who finds the library doesn't own a book he wants should never let the matter ride. The Suggestion Box on the circulation desk at the central library is for book requests.

The library book committee, consisting of the librarian and four staff members, meets weekly to discuss recommendations. Those signed are given more serious consideration.

The committee evaluates the books according to their reviews and estimated benefit to the school.

The library staff and the faculty are responsible for building up the book collection. General reading matter is selected by the book committee. The major part of the book fund is divided among the schools and departments. One person in each department is responsible for spending its department funds to best advantage.

Aside from the regular book fund there are two others. The replacement fund duplicates missing and worn out books. The periodical fund goes toward buying sets of magazines or back files of titles which the library is currently receiving. Occasionally special funds are available to buy important books or reference sets for which the regular fund is insufficient.

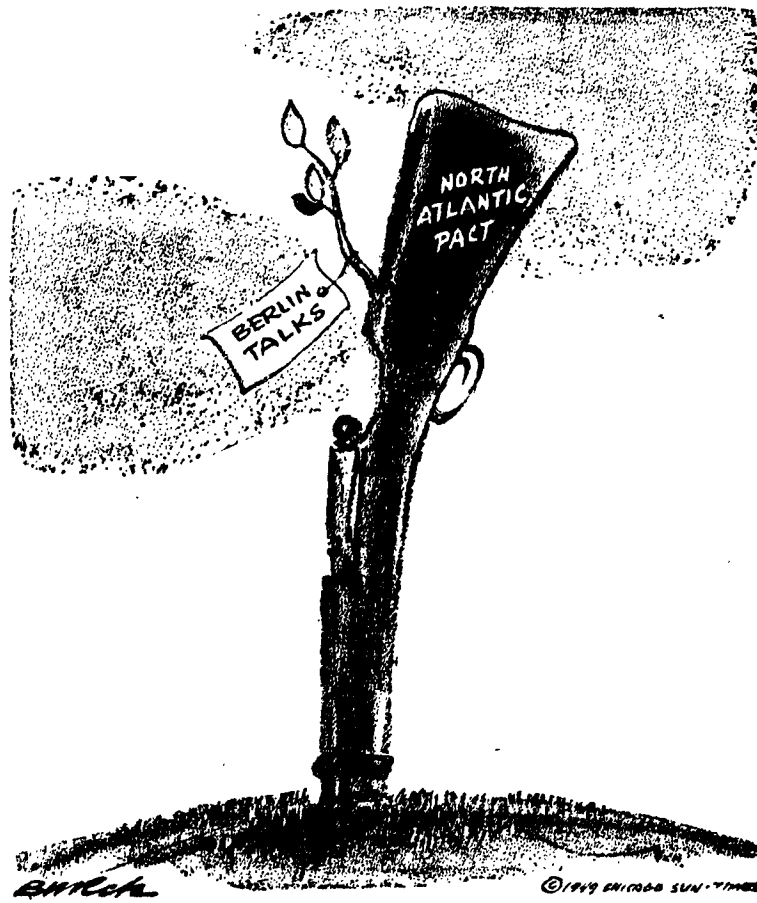
When a book is ordered, a colored slip is put into the catalog and the person signing the order is notified. This slip is used temporarily until the catalog card is filed. Anyone can determine whether the book has come in by inquiring at the Order Department. To obtain a book which has been ordered, a person should leave his name either at the Order Department or the Circulation Department and he will be notified when it is ready.

To keep a complete record of books bought on a department's funds, a slip giving the order information, price, and call number is sent to the person in charge of the fund.

The person ordering a book is notified if it is out of print or unobtainable. At the request of a department the Order Librarian will try to obtain a title in the out-of-print market.

—Ellen Sperber.

## First Shoot



## Summer Work in 1948 Embraces Rebuilding of Finnish Village

(This is the seventh in a series of eight articles on summer work camp experiences of members of the student body and faculty. Further information concerning similar projects to be conducted this summer may be obtained by contacting the PSCA office, 304 Old Main.)

As told to the Daily Collegian by Ted Horner, a member of the Friends Service Committee group working in Sattanen, Finland, last summer.

In the summer of 1948 there were 23 in the group of Americans who sailed from New York City on the last day of May to spend the summer in Finnish work camps. It was one of the largest groups of its kind, for American participation in foreign work camps is not carried on in large numbers.

The group landed in Bremerhaven, Germany, and traveled

north by train through Denmark and Sweden to Rovaniemi, the largest city in northern Finland. In Rovaniemi they were joined by 35 or 40 prospective campers from other countries of Europe and spent a full week getting background material about the people and area in which they were going to work from Finnish professors and businessmen who came to the Quaker Barracks to help in this orientation program.

**Obscure Country**  
Finland is a very obscure country in the minds of most Americans. Those who know anything about it at all usually think of it as a country which has lots of lakes and birch trees, as the birthplace of Jan Sibelius, and as a country which pays its war debts. All of this it is, and much more. It is a country that is a younger but just as fervent democracy as the U. S.

**Location Here**  
In this area most of the seven work camps were located. After the training conference was ended in Rovaniemi, the foreign campers, including the Americans, divided into seven groups and set out for the particular project on which they were to spend the summer.

The groups of which I was a

part went to a little village 80 miles north of the Arctic Circle called Sattanen, to help rebuild some of the houses which had been burned. In the camp at this village we were joined by a dozen Finns making our camp a group of 22. This group was composed of mostly students and in addition to the Finns there were five Americans, a Dutch girl, a French girl, a Dane and a Swede.

We worked on three different projects simultaneously. One was finishing a house for a war widow with two children. Her neighbors had started the house but were not able to finish it because they had to do their harvest. Another was building a house for a man who had 15 children, all of whom had lived the previous winter in a little shack not more than 20 by 30 feet in size. We were never able to finish that job because cement was not available for the foundation.

The third project was building a small house for a veteran of the first World War who was crippled in both legs. That was our most successful job for by the end of the summer we had completed it except for some minor details.

## Collegian Gazette

Saturday, May 7

### COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Admitted Thursday: Burl Neely.  
Admitted Friday: Jack Crowe.  
Discharged Friday: Gilbert Friedman, Edwin Bell, Meta Scott, Stanley Schwartz, Ernest Cozens, Burl Neely.

### COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Arrangements for interviews should be made in 204 Old Main

The Sinclair and Balletine Co., Ridgeway, Pa., is interested in organic chemists. Work largely in control laboratory in dye pigments and dyes.

H. J. Heinz Co., May 9 and 10, June grads in IE, ME, Chem Eng, and Phys.

Strawbridge and Clothier, May 10, June grads in retailing.

Essex Rubber Co., May 7, June grads in Chem Eng.

Armco Steel Corp., May 9 and 10, June grads in Arch Eng, Civil Eng, EE, IE, ME.

Wear-Ever representative will interview students May 11 and 12 for summer and permanent employment.

State Department of Highways, May 13, June grads in Ag Eng, Accounting, Chem Eng, Engineering seniors, Forestry.

Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware, has openings for two or three dieticians. Applicants should be Food majors.

National Supply Co., May 9, June grads in ME for plant work.

J. J. Newberry Co., May 9 and 10, June grads interested in retailing.

### AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM—Flamingo Road.

STATE—My Dream Is Yours.

NITTANY—Strange Gamble.

## The Safety Valve

### Self-Explanatory

TO THE EDITOR: I hope that my letter of yesterday was self-explanatory, but I would like to bring out the following points:

1—As regards Mr. Richards' letter entitled "The Laugh of the Week," people from time immemorial have always laughed at constructive and sane ideas and I do not blame anybody for this; it is just the natural law of inertia.

2—If one keeps his eyes open, one can find that the caste system exists, in some form or the other, all over the world, without exception.

India, though ill famed for her caste system, is the only country, as far as I know, that has taken definite and positive measures to abolish it. According to the New Constitution of the Republic of India, any form of demonstration of caste system is a crime punishable by law.

3—As far as the narrow-mindedness part of the affair goes, the refusal to listen to constructive criticism is narrow-mindedness in itself.

Kindly consider this matter closed.

—Soli J. Bapuji.

## The Daily Collegian

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