

Safety Valve...

"New Tradition"

TO THE EDITOR: "Tradition Suffers as Former Girl Cheerleader Runs Rally."

Hah! Tradition never had it so good. It seems almost inconceivable that tradition could be established in one year. As a matter of fact, it would be better to say, in six football weekends.

In 1948, the last of female cheerleaders were seen on New Beaver Field. The spirit among the upperclassmen seems to have definitely fallen off. This of course can be attributed to many factors, such as being seated in the vicinity of Bald Eagle Mountain, or because we no longer have as strong a team as in the past few years.

There is a tremendous difference in the response the student body gives to pleas from male cheerleaders. After all, there are four times as many men as women and it is to be expected that the male would respond more readily to the female. Any increase in spirit may be attributed to our new freshmen women, who often cheer to have something to do while the teams are out of sight at the far end of the field.

Last year, the graduate manager of athletics, Ike Gilbert, issued a decree forbidding female participation on the cheerleading squad. The reasons he gave at that time ran something like this: Women cheerleaders detract from the dignity of the squad, and the alumni have requested that their future participation be prohibited.

WITHOUT BELABORING the slur on the coeds and their dignity, I would like to ask two questions. 1. Who every saw a dignified cheerleader? 2. Who are these alumni referred to? Several that have returned this fall asked why we had no women on the squad and expressed disappointment over their absence. Maybe the worthy Graduate Manager and I travel in very exclusive and opposite-thinking sets, but it seems that one of us would have run into some individual who would express a different opinion.

It is the student body itself which does most of the cheering, so it seems logical that they should be able to express their preference as to the sex of the cheerleaders. This is a co-educational institution and so it is only right that the women be permitted to participate, if only in this way, in our major sport.

I would therefore be very interested in having the opinion of other students concerning this matter. Who knows, I might hear from one who agrees with Mr. Gilbert.

—Paul W. Thayer

• Three cheers. We too would like to see a few distaff cheerleaders on the Nittany grid turf.

However, there must be two sides to the question, as evidenced by the fact that Pitt, Penn. Michigan State and many other large universities and colleges limit cheerleading to men, as does Penn State.

Coed cheerleaders at State were a war measure because of the "manpower shortage." Then in '47 the Athletic Association committee on cheerleading—not Gilbert alone—decided to revert to the College's traditional policy of a strict man's world in cheerleading. (No official alumni opinion was expressed.)

Comprising this committee, set up under the AA constitution, are the dean of the School of Physical Education and Athletics, the graduate manager of athletics, head football coach, head of the department of music, president of the Athletic Association (a student), and the retiring head cheerleader.

The AA constitution mentions neither men nor women in speaking of cheerleader selection. However, it implies strongly that Nittany cheerleaders are to be male. For example, we quote from article 5:

"...The uniform of the....cheerleaders shall be white flannel trousers and white round-neck sweater with a two-inch band of blue encircling the neck."

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

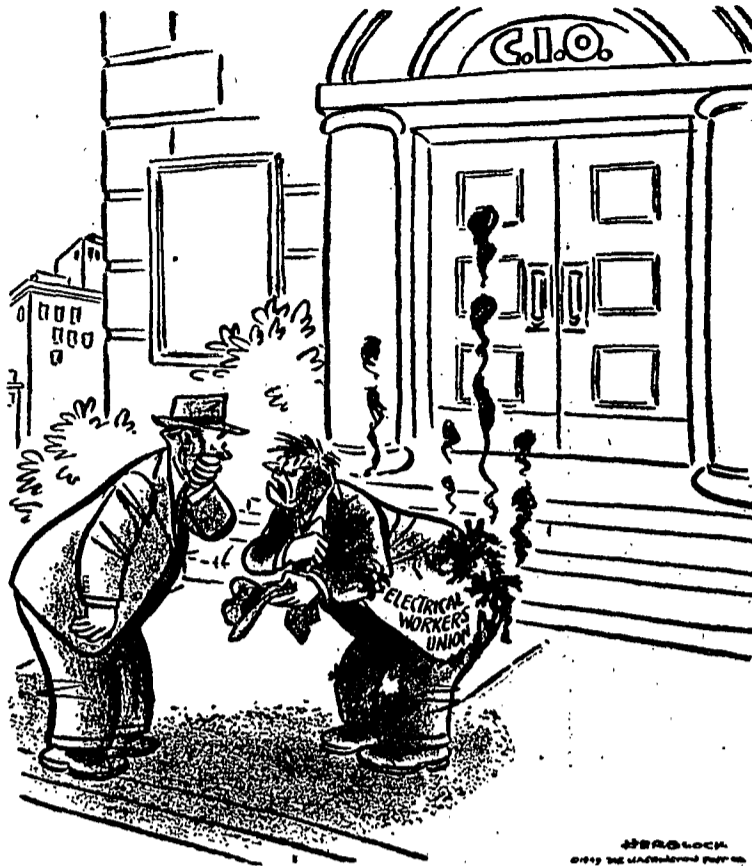
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Editor Tom Morgan Business Manager Marlin A. Weaver

"Some So-And-So Threw The Main Switch"



The Gripes of Roth

By RED ROTH

There's a saying among sportsmen to the effect that it's a good man who can dish it out, but it's a better man who can take it. The same might easily be said for women.

PENN STATE COEDS proved they could dish it out last year. Now that a few, a very few, have to take it, they're proving themselves sissies.

I refer to the letter published in the Safety Valve Saturday in which two coeds, "who have dates, believe it or not," asked for a ban on imports during "Big Weekends."

That I am not alone in my opinion of these female "cry babies" is evidenced by the stormy replies the letter evoked in subsequent issues of the Collegian. Only yesterday, members of their own sex condemned them for their infantile action.

WITHOUT TAKING into account emotional responses such as coeds are "conceited," "unfriendly," etc. it can be demonstrated quite conclusively that the Chinese Wall a minority of the fair sex wish to erect around the Nittany Vale is not the solution to dateless weekends for our Penn State dolls.

From the astronomical man-woman ratio of almost 5 to 1 last year, the figure has dropped to the neighborhood of 3 1/2 to 1. In concrete terms, this means there are approximately 7500 Don Juans on campus to only 2500 Helens of Troy.

If every man, therefore, were to date one of the available coeds, 5,000 male neurotics would still be surplus. Let's face it, there were nowhere near 5,000 imports trundled into State College last weekend. Even a Liberal Artist, then, should be able to see that there were men around who could have escorted the girls to all the gay weekend parties.

THEN WHY THE gripe? Because after two semesters of having the phone ring on the average of six or seven times per week with men on the other end of the line clamoring for dates, the ratio drop has cut weekly calls to four or five. Our little misses don't approve of this situation and want it remedied.

An often-heard statement from coeds, who dismiss the ratio as irrelevant, is, "sure there are three or four men to every woman, but one's married, one's pinned, and we wouldn't date the other one (or two) anyway."

This may surprise the powder puffs, but there are some men who feel that not every lass who trips down the mall is Miss America material, either. In fact, on occasion, I've heard terms like "beast" and "dog" dispensed rather freely.

IT WOULD SEEM, then, that if some of Dean Weston's charges are forced to remain manless for a weekend or two, the fault lies at least partly with themselves.

Two possible solutions lie with the girls themselves, and either would probably be preferable to the sensible one suggested by some male students. The first is to do as Dr. Adams once suggested to his class, and seek work in the coal mines, the only place outside of State there are more men per woman in the country.

The second is to take up the idea of a quota system with the administration, limiting admittance of coeds to a definite low percentage of the student body.

Maybe five per cent would be satisfactory. Or is that too high, girls?

Safety Valve...

Still Undeclared

TO THE EDITOR: Here at Penn State one of the best soccer teams in the East, guided by Bill ("Mr. Soccer") Jeffrey, is out winning all their games so far this season. What glory do they get? Even when there is no football game at Beaver Field the students do not come out to cheer their team through its tough battles.

Soccer as a sport demands more endurance than does football, its great rival. The game entails a great deal of skill. How many of you could get out on the field and master a ball as does Ralph Hosterman or Dick Hannah? These men are noted and have received recognition by being classed as All-Americans last year.

If the students here at Penn State would learn a little about the game of soccer I am sure that everyone would at least cheer one of the top teams of the East tomorrow afternoon when the team plays on main Beaver Field. The "Big White" will play against the Tar Heels of North Carolina.

The game of soccer is an interesting one and can only be appreciated when it is understood. An easy way of learning is to watch.

—R. W. Free

• We second the motion and add that the Tarheel-Lion game will begin at 1 p.m.

It seems that soccer teams at Penn State have always been playing—and winning—before notoriously small crowds. Domination by football is of course the reason. This weekend is one of the few afforded the foot-ball-minded gentry on campus to see a soccer game, since the football team will be out-of-state.

The show put on by Coach Jeffrey's soccer men is exciting even to the neophyte, who can appreciate a crackerjack ballet on the soccer field executed by Joe Lane, or the figurative and literal headwork of Ron Coleman.

Soccer attracts tens of thousand in Britain. Maybe we're missing something.

Call Again

TO THE EDITOR: Behavior is caused or hadn't you heard? For the girls, it isn't a matter of "lowering their pride to go to a mixer or dance." It's just that the girls don't want to waste the evening standing around when the men won't ask them to dance. What girl—good-looking or otherwise—wants to stand on one side of a hall and look at the men standing on the other side. All men aren't that good-looking! Two weeks isn't too early to ask a girl to a big dance. After all, she may have to earn the money to buy a gown.

Naturally with a 3 to 1 or better ratio a man can't always get a date when he calls 5051. Don't be discouraged. Call again! The coeds are nice girls if you take the trouble to meet them.

—A Coed

• Name withheld

Gazette

Friday, November 4.

LUTHERAN BIBLE STUDY, Student House, 7:00 p.m. Work party, 8:00 p.m.

REFORMED CHURCH Students Hayride, meet at church, 7:30 p.m.

BLOCK AND BRIDLE Club Hayride, meet at Sheep and Beef Barn 7:00 p.m.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL Admitted Wednesday; Joan Curran.

Discharged Thursday; Jean Grose, Phyllis Herbst and Andy Silcock.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT Further information concerning interviews and job placement can be obtained in 204 Old Main.

Radio Corp. of Amer. (RCA), Victor Division, Nov. 7 and 8. January grads in Me, EE, C&F, Accounting for specialized training program. Applicants must rank in upper-half of their class.

AT THE MOVIES CATHAUM—Fighting Kentuckian. NITTANY—Lady of Burlesque. STATE—Doctor and The Girl.

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