

Plain

We shall recount a story. It seems that the late W. C. Handy, a Negro who is reputed to be the father of much of what is known as "blues" songs, was about to board a train in a small Southern town. Accompanying him were many other colored people of considerably less cultural attainment than he, who were all entraining as part of a mass exodus from the South in the early twenties.

About to leave, he overheard a small white girl exclaim to her mother, "Mommie, if all those colored people leave here, who is going to be left for us to be better than?"

Certainly few students at Penn State, regardless of place of birth, would take offense at the honest inquiry of this innocent child. That is why we did not hesitate to recount the story, and it follows naturally that college students should certainly base any debate of the so-called "Negro question" on solid grounds of fact and logic, and preclude any vestige or trace of emotionalism.

CELEBRATION OF Negro History Week on campus this week leads us to consider that intolerance and restrictions against the Negro are not just a Southern problem, as many think. As a GI, we witnessed some of the housing conditions in the South and we saw the Negro slums of the North and East.

We observed Jim Crow laws enforced in the South, and we have all our life been witness to their unwritten status but effective application in the North. Again as a GI, we saw first-hand the segregated residential areas of the South and have read of, if not witnessed, their alleged tighter restriction and control in the North.

We're also prompted to consider educational advantages, medical and surgical facilities, the question of promotions and firing of Negroes, job opportunities, and what we think is almost a total oversight by our national press concerning Negro accomplishment. Negro achievement seems to play a poor second fiddle to an apparent attempt to associate the Negro only with news stories of crime.

OUR POINT IS that the "Negro problem" or "White problem" is not restricted geographically but is an "American problem." This leads us to a conclusion by Gunnar Myrdal, a Swedish social economist commissioned to make an impartial and extensive study of the entire inter-racial problem. He concluded in his "American Dilemma":

"The 'American Dilemma' . . . is the ever-waging conflict between, on the one hand, the valuations preserved on the general plane which we shall call the 'American Creed,' where the American thinks, talks, and acts under the influence of high national and Christian precepts, and, on the other hand, the valuations on specific planes of individual and group living, where personal and local interests, economic, social and sexual jealousies; considerations of community prestige and conformity; group prejudice against particular persons or types of people; and all sorts of miscellaneous wants, impulses and habits dominate this outlook."

A national striving to combat this latter outlook and promote Myrdal's "American Creed" began early in American history and was crystallized partly in a statement by Thaddeus Stevens, a Pennsylvania legislator of the Civil War era: "Every man, no matter what his race or color; every earthly being who has an immortal soul, has an equal right to justice, honesty, and fair play with every other man and the law should secure him those rights."

TOLERANCE IS gradually gaining an upper hand. An intolerance of the twenties—which manifested itself in labor-management, "One Hundred Percent Americanism" and "status-quo" struggles as well as in race hatred—is not so marked now, although it's still often as plain as a weed.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

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Little Man On Campus by Bibler



"Chigger Bites"

Times Have Changed Since Pugh Era

The time: July, 1950
 The place: Library steps
 A dignified scholarly man nearly 6 ft., 2 in. tall looks down the Mall, bewildered. He is dressed in the vogue of 1864, and somewhat resembles a handsome Lincoln. Another confused gentleman stands several feet away, but in modern dress.

"I BEG YOUR pardon," he says, and there is a bit of Kansas in his voice, "but I wonder if you could tell me how to find Recreation Hall. I'm new here."

"Sorry, but I'm afraid the place has changed since my day. This isn't the Agricultural College I knew in '64," replies the bearded man.

They introduce each other and Evan Pugh, Penn State's first president and Milton Eisenhower, the latest one begin to look around the campus.

WALKING DOWN the Mall Dr. Pugh exclaims, "Isn't it immense!" Then he looks at Burrowes, "What happened to the barn, and the corn crib . . . and the slaughter house?"

"I think they moved those to another part of campus," smiles Dr. Eisenhower, "but over there's Old Main. I'm told it's been rebuilt since you were here. Let's go up to the tower and see the whole college."

"Won't the students object to our traipsing through their halls?" asks the older man.

"Of course not. They don't live here any more, you know. In fact I think they moved them out long before they built McAllister Hall around the turn of the century."

The two men pantingly mount the steps to the tower. Dr. Eisenhower whips out his little blue Bible, the Handbook, and scrutinizes the campus map.

"Way over there," he points out, "should be Recreation Hall, and across from it is new Beaver Field."

"Oh I remember the first football game the blue and white played. That was in '81, 17 years after I died, but I could hear echoes of 'Beat Bucknell.' We did too . . . But look—on that side of the campus. What are those two big buildings? Way over."

"THEY'RE THE NEW girls dormitories, I think. I'm told they're luxurious."

"Girls!" exclaimed Dr. Pugh. "Do they really allow females here now?"

"About 2000."

"Why the girls must outnumber the boys. How nice for Friday evening literary society meetings."

"Literary societies! Dr. Pugh, I'm afraid the boys (of which there are 3.5 to every girl) take their dates to fraternities, now."

"Whatever do they do in fraternities?"

"Well, uh they dance . . . and uh they . . . and uh . . ."

"You may have your modern conveniences, Dr. Eisenhower, but you have big problems too. I'm glad I was president in 1864."

The two men shake hands and descend, but each is sure that his era was, or is, Penn State at its best.

—DEANIE KREBS

Safety Valve . . .

What About the Future?

TO THE EDITOR: With a near capacity crowd attending the piano recital given by Katherine Bacon on Monday evening I feel this is an appropriate time to inquire about the future plans of the State College Artist course.

I and many others I'm sure who have had the opportunity to see and hear such individual artists as Horowitz and such talented groups as the National Symphony Orchestra have hope, along with less fortunate newcomers to town and campus, of witnessing an early revival of this cultural program.

Thanks to the Department of Music for keeping the spark alive.

—Harlan Stevenson

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're happy to refer Mr. Stevenson and countless other inquirers to an article on page one, about the Community Concert Series.

Gazette

Thursday, March 2

- PSCA BIBLE Study group, 304 Old Main, 2:10 p.m.
- PSCA BIBLE Study group, 304 Old Main, 4:10 p.m.
- PSCA Cabinet, 304 Old Main, 8:15 p.m.
- WRA Fencing, 1 White Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- WRA Badminton Club, Gym, White Hall, 4:00 p.m.
- WRA Swimming Club, Pool, White Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- NSA Meeting, 20 Sparks, 7 p.m.
- INDEPENDENT Staff, Daily Collegian Office, 7:00 p.m.
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE Organization, 207 CH, 6:45 p.m.
- HILLEL FOUNDATION Megillah Reading Celebration, Hillel Foundation, 8:30 p.m.
- FORESTRY SOCIETY, 105 White Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- CAVE EXPLORERS, 121 MI, 7:30 p.m.
- PSCA DANCING Class, Armory, 6:45 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Further information concerning interviews and job placements can be obtained in 112 Old Main.

Seniors who turned in preference sheets will be given priority in scheduling interviews for two days following the initial announcement of the visit of one of the companies of their choice. Other students will be scheduled on the third and subsequent days.

Shell Oil Co., Mar. 6, 7. June MS and BS candidates in MngE and Petroleum and Natural Gas Refining, MS candidates in EE and ME, and PhD candidates in Phys.

Duquesne Light Co., Mar. 13, 14. June grads in EE, ME, and CE.

General Electric Co., Mar. 13 to 16. June grads in EE, IE, ME, and Phys. for its test engineering program.

Bell Telephone Co. of Pa., Mar. 13, 14. June grads in EE and IE. The work consists of technical and business operations, and engineering planning. Applicants must not be over 24 years of age and should have a 1.5 or better average.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Admitted Tuesday: Lois Kauffman, Frank Heim, Susan Smith, Lois Van Vactor.

Discharged Tuesday: Frank Heim.

Admitted Wednesday: Jerry Braverman.

Discharged Wednesday: Martin Costa and Keith Shaffer.

AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM—Whirlpool.
 STATE—Guilty of Treason.
 NITTANY—Task Force.

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