

LA Open Letter

Following is the text of an open letter to the administration of the College written by the Liberal Arts Student Council.

The Liberal Arts Student Council has learned from accounts in the press of the decision of the Board of Trustees not to renew the contract of Dr. Lee Lorch, assistant professor of mathematics because of his activities in seeking to eliminate racial discrimination, particularly in the Stuyvesant Town project. This has been confirmed by an investigation by the Liberal Arts Council. This action by the Board of Trustees has aroused local and national concern, since the very institution of academic freedom is endangered.

Mr. A. O. Morse, assistant to the president, has informed us that neither academic deficiency nor relations with other faculty members led to the refusal to renew Dr. Lorch's contract. These qualifications apparently were not the basis for the Board's decision, although they are the established criteria in the academic profession.

This leads us to the conclusion that at Penn State, a professor's job depends upon the whims and personal interests of members of the Board of Trustees. If a professor is in danger of losing his job for liberal activity, liberal thinking, and liberal opinions, then the Liberal Arts School is not a school of LIBERAL arts.

Reputation Jeopardized

If by opposing racial discrimination and working for its elimination a professor may lose his job here at Penn State, then the College's reputation as an exemplary American institution is seriously jeopardized.

The Liberal Arts Student Council feels that the administration has violated the moral obligation to higher education with which it is vested. In taking stock of our administration, from the Board of Trustees down, we must conclude that principles and ethical responsibilities have been sacrificed for the interests of a select few.

The Liberal Arts Student Council, faced with the failure of the Administration to make a public statement, and unable to obtain a full account of the administration's actions, has been hampered in its efforts to make constructive proposals.

Nevertheless, after a thorough examination of the views of the parties involved, the Liberal Arts Student Council must conclude that a grave injustice has been done not only to Dr. Lorch, but to Penn State's traditional academic freedom. As the representative organ of the Liberal Arts Student body, we call upon the Administration for prompt action to end this shocking violation of principles of academic freedom, principles which have for so long been traditional with Penn State.

—Signed: The Liberal Arts Student Council

Lorch Case --

(Continued from page one) make no comment on the matter.

NAACP Letter

The NAACP letter, to be drafted by an eight-man executive committee, will point out that Dr. Lorch was recommended for his ability as an instructor by Prof. Orrin Frink, head of the math department. The committee also stated that approximately 30 members of that department signed a petition approving Lorch as a capable instructor.

Dr. Lorch is co-advisor to the campus NAACP chapter.

The LA council letter charges that Morse "has informed us that neither academic deficiency nor relations with other faculty members led to the refusal to renew Dr. Lorch's contract."

Personal Interests

"This leads us to the conclusion that at Penn State, a professor's job depends upon the whims and personal interests of members of the board of trustees," the letter continues.

The letter states that the reputation of the College is "seriously jeopardized" and that "principles and ethical responsibilities have been sacrificed."

NAACP members also voted to form a committee for academic freedom in conjunction with representatives of other campus organizations, and the executive committee termed Lorch's dismissal "an affront to democratic people and an encroachment upon academic freedom."

Morse Questioned

The trustees decided not to re-

hire Dr. Lorch after Morse questioned him in connection with allowing a Negro family to live in Stuyvesant Town apartment.

David H. McKinley, associate professor of economics, co-advisor to NAACP and a member of the AAUP, has stated that AAUP members on this campus are not tackling the Lorch case because they concern themselves only with teaching contracts of more than one year.

However, McKinley added that the national office of the AAUP is going on record in defense of Dr. Lorch and probably will blacklist the College if he is not reappointed.

Grid Banquet

(Continued from page one) Subjects of satire in the skits will include student politicians, athletes, and other campus leaders, as well as townspeople and members of the faculty.

The banquet was inspired by that given annually by the Washington Gridiron Club, at which the national government and administration are "roasted" on a hypothetical gridiron. It was erroneously stated in the Daily Collegian that the event was staged by the National Press Club in the nation's capital.

The last banquet put on by the Penn State chapter of Sigma Delta Chi was held in 1942. Prior to that date it was an annual event.

Admission is by invitation only. Persons who plan to attend the banquet must obtain tickets at the Student Union desk in Old Main by noon Saturday. Traditionally, dress is formal.

Truman Busy --

(Continued from page one) ordered Federal grand jury action against crime there and told the Attorney General to get to the bottom of the nation-wide crime rackets.

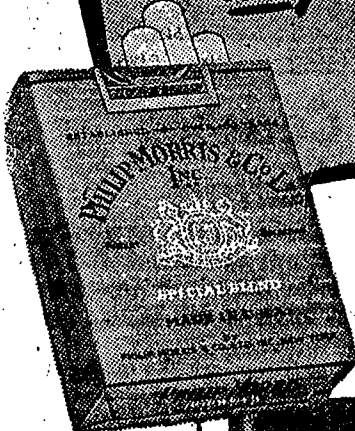
Then the President leaned back and discussed his five years on Pennsylvania Avenue. He said that he proposed to take credit for general business prosperity and improved international relations.

Later, without saying so directly, President Truman picked

up the challenge of Republican critics, who want to use the bi-partisan foreign policy as a campaign issue. President Truman says he wants to see the people elect a Congress this fall which will be wholeheartedly in favor of international cooperation.

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