

The Daily Collegian

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Draft Extension

Congressional consideration of extending the draft for two years once again brings up the question of how much of traditional democratic principles should be sacrificed for the sake of expediency.

IT ALSO THROWS an element of uncertainty into the plans of college students who would like to get their four years of education in four consecutive years.

Out of mere self-interest, the college student might be expected to oppose draft extension. Not only would the draft increase the time required for many to be graduated; it also would deter many from returning to college and would deter others, drafted immediately after leaving high school, from even entering college.

Even more important than these considerations, however, are those which rest upon basic principles of democracy—principles which always have been opposed to setting up armies by conscription.

THE PEACETIME DRAFT, as employed by European nations, often has led to the police state; many feel that such a course here would result from maintenance of a large army by conscription. And it is not facetious to point out that this police statism—of the Russian ilk—is the very thing which this nation apparently intends to oppose.

Thus the United States is in danger of using the means of its enemies, ostensibly to foster democracy, and of ending up in the same condition as Russia.

American tradition always has been opposed to conscription—in fact, many foreign-born Americans originally came to this country to escape oppressive European rule which included conscription. It is only because of the current atmosphere of international fear and suspicion that it was possible ever to set up a draft system after the war.

One also wonders if there is a real need for the draft. In view of the small number of men inducted under the present law, there would seem to be some doubt on this point.

Historically, standing armies have been highly conducive to international tension and have helped to intensify armaments races. There is no reason to believe that the same trend will not hold true today—in fact, with each new cold war expenditure it becomes apparent that the trend is running true to form. If peace is the real objective of this nation, it would seem more reasonable to employ means which have not historically been listed as among the causes of war.

Safety Valve . . .

Letters to the Editor should be addressed—The Daily Collegian, Box 261, Boro. The writer's name will be withheld upon request, but no letter will be printed unless it is signed.

Gripe From a Grad

TO THE EDITOR: In regards to the senior class' "amazingly apathetic attitude toward the selection of a class gift," I have a gripe to register. I refer to Herb Stein's editorial of yesterday, and particularly to the part concerning grads of last Feb.

Apparently someone fouled up in mailing absentee ballots for the class of '50 gift, for I, a Feb. grad, failed to receive one. And I doubt that I was the only one overlooked in the shuffle.

Anyhow, I'd like to take advantage of this media to cast my ballot for a student press, something which might help, in the long run, to detour some of the unjust criticisms leveled at Collegian, and College publications in general, by a minority, always present it seems, who glibly slam everything in sight before they've exposed themselves to the facts.

—Al Ryan

Student Ballots

Does a college student of voting age have the right to vote without being inconvenienced?

IF HE DOES, why must he be put to the inconvenience of traveling to his home town every Spring and every Fall when elections are held?

The fault, of course, is that the state does not have an absentee voting law which would allow students to pre-register in their home towns and then vote by mail when elections come up. At the present time, the National Student Association is planning to pressure the state legislature toward this end, but the outcome remains to be seen.

Students should give their full support to this campaign, but they also should realize that being voteless, they are almost weaponless. Legislators respect only petitioners who can wield votes—in other words, only those who can keep them in or throw them out of office.

UNLESS SOME temporary means is provided for student voting, a campaign for a permanent absentee ballot law will be forceless. At present, students find it costly to travel home to vote, and they ill can afford classes on election days.

One way partially to surmount this obstacle would be to establish a voting holiday at Penn State. The problem of financial cost would remain, but the move would be a step in the right direction.

In the past few years, students going home to vote have been given permission to cut classes, but they still missed valuable classroom work. It appears also that this method must remain in effect for another two years, since the College senate already has approved the calendar for those years and has provided for no voting holiday.

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, senate reconsideration of the calendar to provide a voting holiday would be a worthwhile action. Certainly the senate should keep this problem in mind when drawing up future calendars.

Students also should give consideration to the voting problem. No harm could be done by presenting a voting holiday plan to the senate, and some good might result.

Every attempt should be made to give voteless students a weapon in securing for them a permanent absentee law.

Little Man On Campus by Bibler



"Boy I wish I was graduated."

Pro and Con

By STAN DEGLER

A long-standing controversy which has been smoldering for years burst into flame recently when All-College President Ted Allen declared Women's Student Government appointments to Judicial illegal.

ACCORDING TO THE ALL-COLLEGE constitution, the appointments were made illegally, but legally according to the women's constitution. WSGA was created in 1910 by the Board of Trustees, while Cabinet was organized as recently as 1939. However, the original Cabinet constitution did not conflict with WSGA until it was amended in 1945, against the advice of President Hetzel. WSGA did not protest the action at that time, however, and since then the amendment has not been enforced.

Allen is trying to make the clause stick, in the face of determined opposition by WSGA leaders and the dean of women. Cabinet voted confidence in Allen 18-3, however.

Women fear a battle of the sexes and resent interference in what they regard as their own business. The Cabinet vote was not divided strictly by sex however, since representatives of two women's groups voted to sustain Allen.

ALL-COLLEGE LEADERS regard the issue as one of strong, centralized student government versus weak, ineffective control. Viewed in this light, it corresponds to efforts to reorganize independent men's government and to coordinate the School student councils.

Opinion is split even among women as to whether Cabinet is superior to WSGA and whether the All-College constitution should be supreme. Some fear that Judicial appointments would become political plums. Others see no objection if appointees are capable and student government as a whole is strengthened.

The specific points in question are the method of selecting Judicial Committee members and whether women students should have the right of appeal to Cabinet, as men do from Tribunal. At present, women may appeal to WSGA Senate. Appeals are few and far between in both bodies.

WOMEN'S GOVERNMENT LEADERS have been trying to rally feminine opinion behind themselves, with results still to be seen. There is a considerable sentiment among students that women's government is unduly dominated by the dean of women's office. How true this is, is a moot question, and even if true, is controversial with regard to whether that is a healthy or unhealthy situation.

To say that the dean of women exerts too much control, however, is probably unrealistic. Administrative officials would retain a veto over the type of matters handled by WSGA and particularly Judicial, in any event. To place such matters under Cabinet jurisdiction might weaken student government more than strengthen it, especially if the dean felt compelled to exercise a veto frequently.

A meeting between the deans and the student leaders involved was held yesterday, and there is a possibility that some satisfactory agreement was reached. A compromise would be unlikely to last, however, unless it solved the basic problem of centralized versus decentralized student government.

Gazette

Friday, May 5

PENN STATE Bible Fellowship, 405 Old Main, 7:30 p.m., Dr. R. R. Fritsch speaker.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

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

Corning Glass Works, May 6. June grads in Chem Eng., ME, and Ceramics for their technical training program. Cincinnati Milling Machine Co., May 9 and 10. June grads in IE and ME, and a few in Chem E, EE and Metallurgy for their training program.

Department of Properties and Supplies. June grads in Architecture, CE, EE, and ME. Must be residents of Penna. No priority.

Aetna Casualty and Surety Co., May 9. June grads interested in sales work. No priority.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., May 10, 11, 12. June grads in CE, Chem E, EE, IE, ME, and Ceramics.

E. I. Dupont De Nemours and Co., May 9. June grads in ME for development, production, maintenance, and trouble shooting.

Hercules Powder Co., May 10. Ph.D. candidates in Physical, Organic, and Analytical Chemistry. No priority.

General Chemical Division of Allied Chemical and Dye Corp., May 10. June grads in Chem for sales, and Chem E, CE, EE, and ME.

Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co., May 11. June grads in LA and Engineering for sales. LA applicants must be single, under 26, and have good extra-curricular activities. Engineers may be married, and under 30 with good activities.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Information concerning these positions can be obtained at the Student Employment Office in Old Main.

Interviews for full time summer sales with Wearever. Part time during school year.

Interviews for counselors at Camp Christmas Seal, May 11, 16.

Interviews May 9 for girls as chef's ass'ts at Catskills resort.

Ass'ts in foods, commissary, and purchasing. Boy Scout Camp, Mt. Run, Penna.

Student barbers who have, or can obtain, Penna. License.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

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