

The Daily Collegian

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Plugging the Dike

The story of the little Dutch boy holding his hand in the hole in the dike has a strong application to the customs situation on campus.

IN THAT WELL-KNOWN TALE, the Dutch boy prevented a small hole in the dike from growing and allowing the dike to burst. In the present customs situation, there is no Dutch boy handy to plug up the hole which might let in extreme customs and hazing of the old-time variety.

The danger in reestablishing customs is that, in later years, as the College becomes more and more inundated with the younger brand of students fresh out of high school, customs would tend to revert to previous extremes.

Although Cabinet made clear its intention not to allow "undesirable hazing," there is nothing to prevent such a development in future years. As college life reverts more and more to its prewar "normalcy," there probably will be strong feeling in favor of more harsh customs to strike fear into the hearts of freshmen. The fact that, after the maturing effects of the war years, Cabinet saw fit to reestablish customs could easily be construed as a precedent for bringing back the midnight pajama parades and the ancient practice of pushing a peanut down College avenue with the tip of one's nose.

IF CUSTOMS ARE TO BE KEPT, some sort of definite method should be worked out by which reversion to extremity in hazing would be precluded. Without such a measure, there is danger that in later years the custom tradition would again get out of hand.

A Deluge of Sympathy

There are times when you just feel like giving up and taking the "noble Roman way" out of a disgusting situation.

WE IMAGINE THE SPRING WEEK committee felt pretty much that way when they got out of their collective beds early yesterday morning to set the "Town and Gown Carnival" in motion, and found that the weatherman had unleashed a deluge on them.

The committee probably felt as though someone had kicked them in the teeth, knocked them down, and then played football on their backs.

For once, the weatherman had gone too far. It would not have been so bad had not exactly the same thing happened last year. At that time the carnival was postponed for about a month when a similar cloudburst put the damper on Spring Week festivities.

IF THE SAME THING should happen next Friday, Collegian feels it will be sufficient evidence for charging the weatherman with subversive activities. There apparently is a plot afoot to thwart the Spring Week celebration, and Collegian hereby gives the weatherman due warning that if it happens again we'll see to it that he is investigated by the FBI.

As for the members of the Spring Week committee, we extend them our deepest sympathies in their time of trial and heartbreak.

Light for Pugh Street

This will probably sound like a "lock the door after the horse is stolen" proposal, but a traffic light at the corner of College avenue and Pugh street would be a boon to safety in State College.

SINCE NO LEFT TURN is allowed for vehicles going west on College avenue at Allen street, there has been a steady stream of traffic turning left at Pugh street, especially during rush hours. Without a traffic signal, the corner is a safety menace for both pedestrian and driver.

Borough council should act immediately to prevent the recurrence of accidents such as the one Monday night involving an automobile and a motorcycle. Until protection is offered, the danger of collisions and of pedestrians being mowed down will always exist.

—Stan Degler

A Job Well Done

With All-College Cabinet announcing the selection of a new Tribunal the time is appropriate to review the outstanding record of this year's men's judicial.

HEADED BY BOB KELLER, who has taken part in just about everything this year except the beauty contests, Tribunal has carried out a tough assignment in a way that should make everyone at the College proud.

No one enjoys the job of cracking down on his fellow student especially when it means affecting the sanctified pocketbook. Yet this is exactly what Tribunal has had to do particularly with traffic violators and others whose cases were turned over to them by the Campus Patrol and the Dean of Men's office.

When this writer was assigned to report the proceedings of Tribunal last fall, he accepted the task with tongue in cheek. His preconceived notion was that here was just another group of campus do-gooders.

HAVING OBSERVED the eight Tribunal members wade through case after case of student drivers who failed to realize the seriousness of local traffic congestion, the writer was amazed and pleased to find that here was a group solely interested in one thing—solving the traffic problem.

Every Tuesday night for two months we listened while Keller and the others patiently explained to defendants, many of whom were not the least bit courteous, that there were five student cars for every space available.

The proceedings at times became so stereotyped, we worked out an abbreviated system of notes. Our notebook was filled with pages of "POCWP \$1" which meant—parking on campus without permit—fined a buck.

YET NEVER ONCE was there a defendant summarily fined. Though 20 others before him had been convicted of exactly the same offense, each man was carefully and scrupulously told what the situation was and why he had to be fined.

For this reason there have been almost no examples of a defendant being sent back to Tribunal for a second offense. We think this is a tribute to the intelligent handling of the cases.

Next year Tribunal will have an even tougher assignment if that body is to supervise the punishing of freshmen customs violators.

IF THIS IS ITS TASK, a study of the method used this year may well be a profitable undertaking.

—Herbert Stein

Gazette

Friday, May 19

PENN STATE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, 7:30 tonight, 405 Old Main, speaker Rev. Murray Smoot.

YOUNG FRIENDS, 7:30 tonight, 318 S. Atherton street, square dance.

MUSICAL SERVICE, 8 o'clock, Hillel.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

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

Radio Corporation of America, May 24. June grads in EE, ME, and Chem E for production and power work in their television tube plant.

Travelers Insurance Co. May 25. June grads for commission sales in Penna. No priority.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

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

Seamstresses for slipcover work. Waiters and Dishwashers for next year. Must be able to start now. Weekend subs needed.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Admitted Wednesday: Nancy Stein, Elizabeth Rex, George Dallas.

Discharged Thursday: William Gordon, George Dallas.

AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM: Cinderella.

STATE: Three Came Home.

NITTANY: On the Town.

STARLITE DRIVE-IN: Home of the Brave.

Organized Social Groups

Organized social groups of girls at Penn State began with the founding of Nita-Nee in January 1922, which was followed by the organization of four others within a year. By 1928 the number of women's social clubs had increased to ten with membership ranging between 15 and 25. They existed on a purely local basis at first.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

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"Did you ring, sir?"

Pro and Con

By STAN DEGLER

Charges that the Daily Collegian "has shown the poorest kind of publicity to this institution" partially reveal the difference existing in philosophy between college journalists and the average student or administrator.

VERNE STADTMAN, managing editor of the Daily Californian, writing in the March issue of Quill magazine, stated the journalistic position well when he said, "It seems clear that the campus newspaper, like all newspapers, is obligated to report actions as they occur and in the context in which they occur. The activities of the university administration should not be exempt from this policy."

The Daily Californian has followed this policy in opposing the loyalty oath for professors at that institution. Its opposition, however, is confined to its editorial columns, for in its news columns it is obligated, just as any honest newspaper is, to print the news.

The difference between news and editorial opinion is too often confused by the layman, despite departmentalization by pages. The Daily Collegian has been criticized for propagandizing in the Lorch case and other instances. In the words of the Centre Daily Times, when criticized for similar articles about Lorch, "news columns carry items of general and specific interest, written on a completely factual basis . . . editorial columns . . . carry the newspaper's opinion of matters of public interest. This opinion can be explanatory, commendatory, or critical in any sense of the word."

OTHER PRESSURES on the editor of a campus newspaper include publicity seekers who would make the newspaper a bulletin board, were they to have their way completely, and the Rah-Rah boys who think a newspaper should say everything good and nothing critical of the institution, student leaders, and campus life.

Within the profession, there is the group which regards the college newspaper merely as a training ground for journalists. All of these groups have some grounds for their opinions of a newspaper's function. For the College newspaper editor must glean from publicity, administrator's releases, and student big-wigs, the factual news.

In the words of Stadtmann again, "Despite short run embarrassments, the administration should in the long run benefit from such a policy. If the "Campus Chronicle" is an honest, free and thorough newspaper, it cannot but enhance the prestige of the university with which it is associated."

Syracusans 'All Wet'

Students at Syracuse were "all wet" this week and it wasn't from the rain. In contrast to Penn State's prosaic water-carriers, the clouds, Syracuse's H₂O flowed from buckets, pitchers, tubs, water pistols, and fire hydrants; as 4,000 rioting Syracusans engaged in a splashing battle.

THE FIGHT WHICH began with a campus water-pistol duel between two fraternities, continued for three dripping hours and helped to wash a 14 block area.

Water-whacky students drenched themselves, passers-by, and and police. Many men stripped to the waist as the battle became wet. Not to be outdone, several hundred co-eds prudently donned bathing suits.

Why the water war? A campus leader offered this slippery explanation: the students were merely letting off steam before final examinations, which begin Monday. However, the police advanced another theory, calling it a "Spring Fever" riot.

CHANCES ARE THE FORCES of law and order, reinforced by firemen and sheriff's deputies, became a bit damp themselves by the time they succeeded in squelching the spray-fray.

The aftermath of the battle was a sad one. Ten students were arrested, one policeman was slightly injured, and hundreds of women had straight hair.

—Janet Rosen