

The Daily Collegian

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Voting Proposal

The proposal of the campus NSA chapter to ask the General Assembly to pass a law or to amend the state constitution to permit absentee voting is one which deserves broad consideration by all students.

AGITATION FOR SOME provision which would allow college students to vote in primary and general elections has arisen from time to time at Penn State, and was particularly strong several years ago. The position taken by most advocates is that students who are of age have the right to cast their ballots even though they are not living all year at their places of permanent residence.

We agree thoroughly with this position, and reiterate the past stand of the Collegian in favor of absentee voting. We feel that the absence of such a plan actually is a deprivation of the right to vote.

Under present circumstances, the college student who is registered must cut all his classes for at least one day if he wishes to go home to cast a vote. But many students do not even bother to register for voting because they realize they will be away at school at election time.

ADDITION OF THE COLLEGE population to the electorate probably would be of considerable help in producing sound democratic elections. It is from among the ranks of college students that the world looks for its leaders of the future, and to deprive them of the chance to vote certainly is bitter irony.

We feel college students could be counted upon to vote as intelligently as their enfranchised elders and the non-college-educated segment of the population.

Acting Hastily

Now in its formative stages, the West dorm council might have been expected to make mistakes. Events of the past week have substantiated this expectation.

THIS PAST MONDAY the council acted hastily and ill-advisedly and against the counsel of its advisers in breaking off relations with Russell E. Clark, director of housing.

Yesterday, however, Thomas Durek, president of council, disclosed that Clark would be given an opportunity to explain his side of the story in the dispute over unreturned ping pong tables at Monday's meeting. The announcement that Clark would explain his views is in itself an admission that council acted without full knowledge of all the facts of the case—and facts are a prime necessity prior to any action to be taken by a responsible governing body.

Hasty action seldom pays. That the council will profit from its own mistakes is evidenced by its willingness to allow Clark "his day in court."

— Mary Krasnansky

Movie Monster

Every weekend in any of the local movie theaters, a disgusting exhibition of rowdiness, immaturity, and even vulgarity can be witnessed.

THOSE WHO REALLY want to enjoy the picture are made miserable by clanging cowbells, ringing alarm clocks, loud guffaws, and distracting remarks from childish and inconsiderate members of the audience. Whether these bores think their sound effects are appreciated or whether they cannot control their emotional impulses, we don't understand. However, we don't care what prompts this display—it should be stopped.

Violators seem to be mainly students. Perhaps these displays reflect immaturity or frustration—perhaps poor bringing up. At any rate, the culprits should review the situation and realize that, though their actions may bring a few laughs from others of the same sort who are too meek to carry on in the same manner, the majority of theater-goers definitely do not appreciate the rowdiness.

THE VIOLATORS who are intelligent, mature students will realize this and discontinue the disturbance. But—if moviegoers who wish to concentrate on the picture and enjoy it continue to be needlessly disturbed and annoyed, theater owners should take steps to have these clowns forcibly ejected.

— John Dalbor

Off-Campus News

Among the chief purposes of expanding the Collegian to eight pages daily is the hope that a good deal more national and international news could be included.

THE MAIN PURPOSE is still, of course, to develop a wider coverage of campus events, but in these times when news events of significance change so rapidly, we feel that the short summaries now used are inadequate.

Many students read no newspaper other than the Collegian. Others read only a Sunday paper or one of the weekly newsmagazines. The shortened news summaries in the Collegian—averaging about six inches of type in a news column—are not nearly sufficient to be informative on day-to-day happenings.

The Collegian currently buys a summary of Associated Press radio news for each day's issue. Purchased through WMAJ, the summary is not even comparable to a five minute newscast.

Five minutes of news, as radio listeners will testify, is not much more than the headlines in a newspaper and hardly enough for a sound understanding of any day's news picture.

WITH AN EXPANDED set-up, the Collegian would have the same number of Associated Press news stories available each day as most other morning papers in the state. Though it would be impossible to use that many stories, it is estimated that the amount to be used under the expansion program would be about ten times that used now, but still would leave much more space for campus news than now is available.

This added coverage, we think, should give a satisfactory picture of the top stories of the day. Considering this with the more comprehensive campus coverage, we feel, the paper will be well worth 35 cents more each semester.

— Herbert Stein

Fire Hazard

On Tuesday, Russell E. Clark, director of housing, issued a statement declaring that Pollock Circle is not a fire hazard and explaining the fire which destroyed Moffatt hall two weeks ago. In view of the serious matters involved, matters, in fact, of life and death, that statement deserves strong scrutiny.

FIRST, MR. CLARK said that the fortunately unoccupied Moffatt hall burned because it was filled with "furniture and bedding in storage." It becomes immediately evident that occupied dormitories also are filled with furniture and bedding. They are also filled with human beings.

Second, Mr. Clark pointed out that the fire was started by an oil burner in a basement maintenance shop. There are no oil burners in the occupied dorms, true; but there are a frightening number of matches, cigarettes, lighters, and other inflammables just as capable of starting fatal fires as oil burners.

For the fact is this: Pollock Circle is made of wood and wood burns; therefore, Pollock Circle is a fire hazard.

This is not a time to bury our heads in the sand; two weeks ago a Pollock Circle dormitory caught fire for the sixth time and was destroyed. Eight of these wooden buildings are still occupied. Each could at any time become a fatal inferno of blazing timber and collapsing ceilings. With the fiery evidence of Moffatt hall before us, it is inconceivable that we should ignore its warning.

— Ron Bonn

Gazette . . .

Sunday, December 10
ALPHA PHI OMEGA, Slavonic society, 304 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
NITTANY BOWMEN, field shoot, Forestry parking lot, 1:30 p.m.
EPISCOPALIAN open house, Episcopal rectory, 304 Frazier street, 7-10 p.m. Those planning to attend, call 3455.

Monday, December 11
NAVAL RESERVE volunteer unit, 302 Engineering E, 7:30 p.m.
ENGINEERING student council meeting, 107 Main Engineering, 8 p.m.
COLLEGIAN, senior editorial board, 8 p.m., 8 CH.

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.

Monsanto Chemical company will interview chemists at the PhD level Thursday, Dec. 14.

Sylvania Electric company will interview January graduates in E.E., I.E., M.E., Chem., and Phys. Tuesday, Dec. 12. Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing company has opportunities for January graduates in sales work. If enough students indicate an interest a representative of this company will visit the campus. Notify the College Placement office as soon as possible if interested.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Urgent—Permanent and substitute waiters for snack bar and dorms; off-campus residents with good schedules. Large number wanted. Remuneration in meals.

Door to door sales men for the Pennsylvania Plan for a local concern; local territory; commission basis.

Two men for television installation; must be used to steep roofs and high climbing.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Patients: Stanley Wampler, Joseph Piorkowski, Shirley Raynes, Richard Carla, Herbert Groff, Charles Douas, James Davis, Franklin Reese, Philip Martin, Patrick Heims, and Lawrence Day.

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"Boy! What a player—He sure breaks up their defense with that dribble."



Pro and Con

By STAN DEGLER

Proposals To The President

The State College Friends meeting sent a telegram to President Truman and Secretary Acheson Sunday recommending five measures to meet the present international crisis.

They included clearcut refusal to use the atomic bomb, top-level conferences among major powers to explore all avenues of mediation, seating of the Chinese Communist delegation in the United Nations, creation of a neutral zone in Korea to prevent spread of violence, and creation of United Nations peace observation commission.

THE FRIENDS' OBJECTIVE, creation of a lasting world peace, is laudable. Whether the measures they propose would achieve that objective, and whether several have any chance of being adopted, is more questionable.

Seating the Chinese Communists in the UN at this time would raise cries of appeasement from some sources. But the fact remains that the Communists are the actual rulers of China, and have already been recognized as such by many UN members.

Top-level conferences should meet with no objection, except that we have been intent on working through the UN when it suits our purposes. However, a conference seems to be largely a matter of "you go first," and no one has seen fit to make the first move.

Refusal to use the atomic bomb seems unlikely since we may find ourselves in a position where we must use it. The problem can be considered a military one, and from that point of view the bomb can be used just as any other weapon.

BUT THE POLITICAL and psychological repercussions involved in Europe and Asia seem to prohibit use of the bomb unless it becomes a matter of overwhelming tactical importance. Associated with mass destruction of civilian populations, use of the bomb has been universally condemned abroad as a method of dealing with the present crisis.

Creation of a neutral zone between Korea and Manchuria was under consideration by the UN, but it hardly seems practical before some agreement can be made to halt the actual fighting in Korea.

What is intended by creation of a UN peace observation mission is not clear. Presumably it would be an agency to arbitrate disputes to prevent conflict. And presumably it would be subject to the same divisions as the UN itself.

AT ANY RATE, the immediate problem seems to be for the UN to extricate itself from the military catastrophe in which we find ourselves in Korea.

On Other Campuses

O. W. Hascal, director of admissions at the University of Colorado, recently claimed that sex education in schools should do no more than support what parents have taught. He said teachers should answer questions in an objective way when touchy situations arise among the younger generation.

In the recent storm that swept the east coast, Lehigh university suffered damages amounting to \$1000. A. W. Litzenger, superintendent of buildings and grounds at the school, said the losses were minor as compared to the \$3500 loss in a storm two years ago.

Dr. Raymond Walters, president of the University of Cincinnati, reported in a recent study that almost 75 per cent of the 492 approved American colleges and universities have suffered drops in enrollments. He also stated that 58 per cent of the schools have reported smaller freshman classes during the fall of 1950.

Students of the University of Colorado attended a pre-Thanksgiving vacation convocation in order that Bud Davis, student president, could tell them of the necessity of an increased state appropriation for the school. He told them increased tuition would be required if the appropriation was not granted. Students were asked to tell their parents of the need in the hope that legislators would be contacted.

Administrators of the University of Connecticut have approved an organization called a "Black Triumvirate." The group aims to guard traditions of the college and stimulate active participation in sports and other extracurricular activities.