

The Daily Collegian

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Rash Actions Not Only in Hollywood

The accounts in Saturday's papers of a slapping incident involving actor James Mason and author-playwrite-composer William Saroyan probably brought from most readers only a shrug and a murmur something to the effect that "one can't expect much more from that crowd out in Hollywood."

We feel, however, the problem presented is one which is very common here in State College. The incident occurred when actor Mason became annoyed at the constant yammering going on a few rows in front of him during the showing of a movie. After about 15 minutes, Mason got up, told the offender, Saroyan, to shut up, and slapped him.

While most of us probably would have not reacted as violently as Mason, we all have felt at one time or another like doing the same thing.

Here, however, our problem is not so much the unthinking talker—though there are plenty of them—but with another and even more bothersome movie pest. This is the jokester who, during a dramatic scene in a picture, feels he must reveal to the audience his "very witty" mind and breaks the silence with an "extremely funny" and, to him, appropriate remark which brings forth raucous and appreciative laughter from his cronies.

The person who has made the remark is almost invariably a College student who has arrived after the picture has started and who hasn't yet gotten the meaning of the scene, or one who has found the picture above him and who, therefore, has become quite bored. Finally, thinking himself at least an average person, he decides that the rest of the audience is bored, too, and takes it upon himself to "liven the place up."

Or sometimes the "entertainer" wants to display his wordly knowledge by making an "appropriate" remark after a line from the soundtrack which, by a great stretch of the imagination, can be taken to have a double meaning. Indeed, he sits there just waiting for such a line. His remark is then followed by catcalls and whistles from other sections of the theater from similar characters who haven't been quite as fast on the draw.

The result is that a good bit of the screen dialogue is blotted out while the poor, interested spectators must struggle to hear what's being said on the screen and try to re-establish themselves in the mood that was so stupidly broken.

We think it's about time that Time magazine's "silent generation" learned to be silent at the right times.

—Dave Pellnitz

Unification Nearer

The approval of the Schuman plan by the lower house of the parliament of West Germany brings an economic unification of Europe one step closer. Under the plan, West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg will share the coal and steel resources of the Ruhr area.

This cooperation between countries involved in the defense of the free world will strengthen existing agreements such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And since the Schuman plan is to operate for the next fifty years, it is not too much to hope that agreements above the level of economic ties will be produced—maybe to culminate in a United States of Europe.

One fact that is regrettable is Britain's characteristic aloofness to engage in a continental-inspired plan. At first, the attitude of Britain caused consternation among the other six nations but they proceeded to spell out the formula for the plan.

The link between Germany and France may overcome suspicion of those two countries of each other, which in the past has indirectly led to two world wars. Furthermore, by approving the Schuman idea, West Germany will gain an equal role in the general scheme of the defense of Europe.

—Len Kolasinski

"A little tact and wise management may often erase resistance, and carry a point, where direct force might be in vain."—Anonymous

If Customs Go, Here's a Substitute

For some time now we have felt that customs, as now practiced, were on their way out. Many colleges across the nation have eliminated them as childish, immature, and detrimental to a sane conception of college values. Even at Penn State, where customs still exist, they are being met with an indifference which will eventually kill them in one way or another.

But supporters of the ritual claim that customs orient freshmen to the Penn State way of life and acquaint newcomers with college spirit and ideals. Thus, if we eliminate customs, what will take their place?

If we look closely at an all-too-scantly publicized function of the offices of the deans of men and women, we will find the basis for an adult approach to freshman seasoning. The Orientation Week program supervised by these offices and administered with the help of the administration and students offers, if expanded, an intelligent approach to the problem.

This program is relatively new and each year kinks have to be ironed out as new methods are experimented with, so that a sizable slice of time would have to be spent in working this program into a replacement for customs.

Even if the program were not perfect in its first semesters of operation, it would certainly be better than customs, which are of virtually no value. The one aspect of customs which could be retained would be the name cards and, possibly, the green dinks. These practices do have the assets of acquainting members of the frosh class with others in their class and with the upperclasses.

But a specific, well-planned orientation program could accomplish many things which customs ignore completely. The frosh could be instructed in every phase of Penn State life from class-room procedure to extracurricular activities. How the College is financed and administered and the past achievements and future hopes of Penn State could be presented to the newcomers. If possible, the persons responsible for each aspect of College life could meet with the frosh. These get-togethers would break down many of the barriers between the newcomers and the higher-ups and create a more knowing, a more understanding student body in later years.

The frosh class could be broken into small groups and actually shown, for instance, the operation of the Student Union office, the placement office, the Chemistry and Physics department, the Players' advertising crew, etc. Tours of the campus, currently part of the present orientation program, could be kept in the overhauled system.

Social get-togethers could be a portion of the program. At such gatherings, the College songs and cheers could be injected in the proceedings.

There is no limit to what this program could include. It wouldn't be perfect at first but it would be much improved over the present system which teaches the frosh, among other malpractices, how to avoid being caught dating during the period when frosh dating is forbidden.

We feel this system shows possibilities of producing freshmen capable of entering Penn State life knowing more of what to expect from higher learning, capable of shouldering campus responsibilities with an attitude of intelligence. Certainly it merits consideration as a replacement for a customs system which is barren of almost everything but horse-play.

—Moylan Mills

Safety Valve—

Cooperation and Enforcement Could Ease Parking Situation

TO THE EDITOR: It is true that parking conditions on Penn State's campus are in a very poor state. Those who would park after 8:05 a.m., or 1:25 p.m., may drive round and round the area in which their business lies, gnashing teeth and gears, both to no avail.

It does seem that an institution as large as Penn State, with all its state and federal aid, with all its new buildings, could, at comparatively small additional expense, provide adequate parking facilities. It would also seem, to the writer at least, that in addition to building additional parking spaces—in fact, prior to the building of additional space—existing facilities should be utilized fully. The unusual sight is to find three or more cars parked with the two to three feet between bumpers allowed in any city's parallel-curb parking spaces.

It is the firm opinion of the writer that if the ill-bred drivers abounding on campus will not be considerate enough of others to utilize the space efficiently, the Campus Patrol, in the name of economic efficiency and fairness, should organize parking regulations in such a manner as to eliminate the extravagant practices of these drivers. Curb spaces large enough for a good driver to park an ordinary car should be clearly marked off on the streets named. Then a follow-up campaign of those large, firmly-glued posters of last fall, pasted across the windshield of any driver careless or inconsiderate enough to park incorrectly anywhere on campus, should soon bring to the fore the inherent sense of decency and fair play now so apparently lying dormant in many drivers of campus cars.

When efficient use of existing facilities has been established, plans to increase facilities should be taken under consideration by the proper authority. The campus is certainly large and spacious enough to provide abundant space.

—Eugene A. Roden

• Letter Cut

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



It's nothing, really—I gave them 100 multiple-choice questions, but none of the answers are right.

The Old Millstream

By MOYLAN MILLS



The name-calling groups have gone one step too far, at least in Hollywood. And that timid colossus has finally decided to uphold its integrity and fight back.

A group called the Wage Earners Committee of the U.S.A. Inc. has attacked Stanley Kramer, producer of such fine, off-beat films as "Champion," "Home of the Brave," and "The Men." Kramer has been called "notorious for his Red-slanted, Red-starred films" in a circular distributed by the Wage Earners.

A number of instances are on the record of other Hollywoodites who have been attacked and who fought back but they have always had to fight alone. The movie colony never rose in a body because it was afraid of what such concerted action might do to the box-office. But the Kramer attack was the last straw. The cinema industry has decided to back Kramer to the hilt by concurring with him in his million dollar libel suit brought against the Wage Earners.

you want, but it looks like movie-town has at last realized that honor is sometimes more important than box-office. If such a careful, backtracking organization as the film colony can rear and roar against the name-callers, maybe the long overdue time has come when the individuals and institutions under attack from overzealous name-calling organizations will fight back and expose the Red-baiters for what they are.

The picture which has brought

all the trouble to Stanley Kramer seems to be his latest release, "Death of a Salesman." The Wage Earners have been picketing the movie in Beverly Hills with placards accusing Frederic March, the star, and Arthur Miller, author of the play from which the movie was taken, with "having communist front records."

"Death of a Salesman," itself, has also been attacked for its so-called deprecatory view of the American wage-earner. This seems like an odd "tribute" for a play which has received the Pulitzer Prize, the Drama Critics Circle award, and numerous other prizes for its understanding treatment of a man who has lost his sense of values.

Admittedly, the play shows some of the unsavory aspects of American life, but it certainly is not preaching communism. There is a difference, groups like the Wage Earners will have to learn, between baring flaws in the American system and plugging communism. This difference is all too often forgotten in a zealous attack on an unsuspecting individual who is merely trying to say some sincere things in a country where freedom of thought is not yet curtailed.

Some observers feel the attack on Kramer was just the beginning of an attack on the entire film industry. Therefore it's heartening to see that a group, silent on any issue which might drive one person and his ticket from the box-office, has finally decided to fight the slandering of another group which may have the nation's good at heart but is using the wrong method to fight communism.

This method being used by the Wage Earners could conceivably lead to exactly what they are fighting, a fascist-communism regime in the U.S.

David Gray to Receive Insurance Club Award

David Gray will be the recipient of the \$25 Insurance Club award at January commencement exercises.

Gray, president of the club and an insurance major, was selected by the faculty section of the club. The award is made for contributing and adding prestige to the club.

Gazette . . .

Thursday, January 17
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION, 304 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.

NEWMAN CLUB lecture-discussion, John Hammes in charge, 317 Willard Hall, 7:15 p.m.

MOVIES, sponsored by Petroleum Engineering Society for Petroleum Engineering students, 229 Mineral Industries, 3 p.m.

FENCING CLUB, Beaver Field water tower, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL
Harvey Bolan, Lois Brown, Marilyn Dupont, David Fenton, Edward Flynn, Marcia Germaine, Lavern Merritt, Barbara Newquist, Arthur Rosfeld, Joseph Saber, John Thompson, Anthony Torretta.

AT THE MOVIES
CATHAUM: Weekend With Father 2:13, 4:06, 5:59, 7:52, 9:45
STATE: The Man With The Cloak 2:11, 4:03, 5:55, 7:47, 9:39
NITTANY: Jim Thorpe 6:25, 8:19, 10:15

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
Men for secretarial work.
Women for part time secretarial work.