

The Daily Collegian

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STAFF THIS ISSUE

Night Editor: Chuck Henderson; Copy Editors: Jim Gromiller, Lix Newell; Assistants: Tom Saylor, Mary Lee Lauffer, Gus Vollmer, and William Jost.

More Checks Can't Help Government

On the surface, the pros and cons of the proposed constitutional amendment which would require a statistical poll on all changes in student fees upon the presentation of a petition signed by 10 per cent of the student body seem clear cut.

It would appear that the issue is this: whether or not the students shall have a direct say in student fees through All-College Cabinet.

The issue as we see it is this: how are we to reconcile representative methods of government and democratic leadership with our concepts of democracy in a mass society?

Only those who believe in autocratic methods of government would say the students should not have a say in these fees, that a group of informed leaders should make the decisions for the masses.

We do not support this theory. We do believe in representative government, with the representatives being elected for the purpose of making the decisions for the electorate. This is the way of mass society. When elected representatives of the people become so out of line with the wishes of their constituents, they are thrown from office.

Democracy in a mass society is not guaranteed to always produce the best results. But unless we accept the theory that a few leaders should make our decisions for us, democracy with all its shortcomings must be accepted. Democracy may falter and may fail, but stumbling along, democracy gets where it's going.

Democracy as we practice it in its republican form denies the autocratic theory, but embraces the theory of leadership, with checks and balances. Frequent elections are one check. Constitutional limitations are another. The opposition of groups inherent in a democratic society is another check.

In relation to the problem of student assessments at Penn State there are additional checks. Student government may only recommend an increase in fees. The final decision lies with the College Board of Trustees.

Student initiative is another check, as is the easily available opportunity for any and all students to present their views to All-College Cabinet and other student bodies.

These checks and balances have worked well in the past. If they have ever failed, they have failed because they have not been utilized to their fullest. Adding another check will not solve the problem. If these other checks have not operated successfully, we fail to see any reason why the addition of another—especially the one proposed—will increase their chances of working in the future.

If student government has not been representative of the student body in the past, then it is the fault of nobody, except the students themselves. If student government has ever done something contrary to the wishes of a great majority of the students, the students have nobody but themselves to take to task for it.

If there has ever been an act of student government to which the majority of students have objected, the meeting room of All-College Cabinet should have been crammed from wall to wall with students ready to voice objections.

Such has never been the case.

Is Who's Who Worth the Trouble?

The value of the yearly publication, Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, was the subject of a recent editorial in the Daily Athenaeum, student publication at the University of West Virginia.

We have long debated this question and feel the Daily Athenaeum has come up with some sound thinking. To quote, "It is this selection of candidates, rather than any intrinsic fault of the publication, that results in the surge of ill feeling which annually flutters the ivy and rattles the vines across the nation."

Although we are not prepared to say the book causes all that trouble, we do believe there are many—too many—factors detracting from the value or validity of the selection methods.

On the Penn State campus, the selecting job is given to the director of Associated Student Activities, who in turn gives the job to All-College Cabinet. Cabinet selects a committee to do the choosing, with final approval coming from cabinet. This limits the book to students in extra-curricular activities and not—or at least on a minimum scale—to scholarship.

As can be seen from this year's list of students, activities was the basis for selections. Although many of the students chosen have high scholastic averages, we feel that their after-class activities did the most for their selection.

We agree with the Daily Athenaeum when it says, perhaps there will be some fool-proof method of selecting those to be honored "whereby individuals are considered on an individual basis, rather than on a nebulous bubble of activities, organizations, etc." Actually, it continues, no system could ever solve the situation.

—Bob Fraser

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"Serve the rest of the faculty, Roger—I think Professor Snarf has had enough."

Drug Menace

Yesterday's Daily Collegian carried an AP story concerning a Pittsburgh high school girl who "disclosed stories of widespread heroin and marijuana parties by teen-agers."

This is another development in a fear which today is sweeping America—drug addiction, particularly teen-age drug addiction. One of the country's largest magazines recently carried a really frightening anonymous article called, "My Son is a Dope Addict," while magazines and newspapers from coast to coast have been playing up the problem, brought into prominence by the Kefauver hearings.

But this month, Harper's, one of the country's most reliable publications, appeared carrying a lead article, "The Truth about the Drug Menace," billed on the cover as "exposing a national delusion."

Washington newsman John Gerrity, author of the article, finds that the "drug menace" is in fact extremely confined and fast on the way out.

"Though there has been a spotty increase in the number of arrests of drug addicts since World War II, there is today, according to the federal bureau of narcotics, 50 per cent less addiction than there was a generation ago," writes Gerrity.

More startling yet is his direct quotation of federal narcotics chief Harry Anslinger's unqualified prediction that the drug menace in this country will be licked within two years, even if new international controls are not as successful as expected.

There are more figures—figures like three cases of addiction found among 15,000 Washington high school students, figures like no New England cases of drug addiction known outside Boston. The article is worth reading—worth thinking about. If it is accurate—and Harper's is reliable—then the American people have been panicked by yet another hue and cry that, "The sky is falling!"

—Ron Bonn

Gazette . . .

Wednesday, February 13

COFFEE HOUR, cabinet and dean of men, 109 Old Main, 4 p.m.

GERMAN CLUB, Simmons study lounge, 7:30 p.m.

GRADUATE CLUB, Old Main lounge, 7 p.m.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, 104 Willard Hall, 7:30 p.m.

MINING ENGINEERING SOCIETY business and social meeting, Sigma Phi Sigma, 7:30 p.m.

THETA SIGMA PHI, Grange game room, 7:30 p.m.

Fundamental Issues

By LEN KOLASINSKI



Truce in Korea means nothing and at the same time everything. Surveyed in the light of the world conflict that has pulled the East and West farther apart with each passing year, the talks at Panmunjom are a small part of the broad picture. The adventure undertaken by North Korean communists is only one phase of communist attempts to revolutionize the structure of society in the rest of the world. It is as important as the blockade of Berlin some years ago—nothing more and nothing less.

However, if the impact of the Korean war on individual nations is studied, then the matter of truce or war becomes extremely important. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that a truce implies the idea of "let's take a breather" and it will not permit complete relaxation in billion-dollar-defense spending or million-man-army-recruiting. A truce is but a transitory stage between war or peace.

A truce in Korea does not seem to show the way to peace. If Korea is taken as a point of departure in search of a solution to the whole mess, there are a number of answers to the problem.

1. The truce talks may remain

stalled in order to tie up as many UN troops as possible. After the Communists find a soft spot elsewhere—which may be any of the Southeast Asian countries—they will intensify activities in that soft spot, perhaps even by open aggression. There can then be two police actions.

2. The truce can be concluded. This means in the long-run, constant rearming and continual wariness as to where the communists intend to strike next.

3. Truce talks can fall through. The issue at stake then will be whether an attack of Red China will or will not start World War III.

Peace is never won on the battlefield, but is a product of adjustments made over the conference table. An institution such as the United Nations is based on a theory that adjustments are possible. It is here that peace must be found.

Gazette . . .

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Shell Oil Co. will interview June graduates and 1952 M.S. candidates in Chem., Ch.E. and Metal, Monday, Feb. 25. Both men and women may apply.

Socony Vacuum Oil Co. will interview June graduates and 1952 M.S. candidates in M.E. and Ch.E. Monday, Feb. 25.

Eastman Kodak Co. will interview June graduates in Ch.E., M.E., E.E., I.E., Chem., Phys. and C&F Tuesday, Feb. 26.

International Business Machines Corp. will interview June graduates in Ch.E., Phys., E.E. and M.E. Tuesday, Feb. 26.

West Penn Power Co. will interview June graduates in E.E., M.E., and Home Ec. Tuesday, Feb. 26.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Baby sitters for Tuesday morning and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Notice

The Lion Studio will be closed Monday, Feb. 11 through Friday, Feb. 15. We have been selected as one of 15 studios in Pennsylvania to take ADVANCE COURSES in the Techniques of Fine Portraiture from one of the finest Portrait Specialists in America, Mr. Granville Rice. We will reopen Saturday, Feb. 16.

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