

The Daily Collegian

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More Care Needed In Forum Choices

After reviewing the facts surrounding the signing of Upton Close as a bonus speaker for the Community Forum, that group's general committee has decided to allow Close to speak April 7.

The decision, made with only three of the 13 members of the committee taking an opposite view, was made, not because the committee has any sympathy for the anti-Semitic views of Close, but largely because the committee was aware that banning any speaker after he has been engaged might set a dangerous precedent.

If there ever has been a speaker who does not deserve a forum on a college campus, it surely must be Upton Close. But in banning Close a precedent would be created which could be cited in banning other speakers.

A large part of the value of any university or college lies in the fact that such institutions are free to allow all shades of opinion, both of the right and the left, to be presented to its students. This duty of a university—to present contrasting views of all shades—must not be tampered with, nor undermined.

Refusing to allow Close to speak would have undermined that freedom no matter how much virtue there might be in denying him a platform.

The issue has been settled in a manner which reflects nothing but credit on the committee. The committee has resolved a bad situation in a fashion which leaves Penn State an institution where freedom of expression is not in danger.

Still left to be taken, however, are steps which will guarantee that the likes of Upton Close are not again dignified by the Community Forum.

The decision to engage Close as a forum speaker can be chalked up to nothing but sheer negligence. Needing a bonus speaker, the selection committee, which ironically enough was chaired by Dr. Gerald B. M. Stein, the B'nai B'rith representative on the forum group, approved a contract without looking into the man's record.

In considering Close, the committee of Dr. Stein, forum chairman Clayton Schug, and Mrs. S. Lewis Land, found that he had two virtues: he was available for only \$300 and he was available for a suitable date. Being duly qualified, Close was engaged.

The point at which Close should have been turned down as a Community Forum speaker should have been by this committee. Close's record of bigotry does not qualify him as a speaker for the Community Forum, and this record should have been known by the committee.

As we think of the forum, it is a platform for the expression of ideas of both the right and the left as well as the middle of the road. The view of religious intolerance is above and beyond political issues, however, and has no place in a democratic society.

With its fingers badly burned this once, the forum should have learned a lesson. We feel certain more care will be taken in the selection of future speakers.

Today Is Poll Day

Today for the first time Penn State students will have an opportunity to express their opinions in a Presidential preference poll. The poll, which is being conducted by the Daily Collegian, is the first of a series which will be made before elections.

The poll ballot appears on page 2 of today's Collegian.

There will be no advance claims made as to the accuracy of this poll. It is not being conducted on any statistical basis nor is there a guarantee that some students will not cast more than one vote.

The degree of accuracy of this poll will be determined by the number of students who participate in it. If a large number do participate, then some degree of accuracy could be claimed, with the ever constant factor that there may be some double voting.

In the last poll conducted by the Daily Collegian, just one week prior to the 1948 national elections, 53 per cent of the Penn State students polled favored Thomas E. Dewey. One or two conclusions can be drawn from this: either the campus pollsters were wrong or students were wrong.

While the accuracy of this poll is not guaranteed, the results should nonetheless be interesting.

Amendment Would Hurt Government

After almost one month of discussion, the proposed amendment to the All-College Constitution dealing with student fees is scheduled to come up for a vote when cabinet meets tonight.

The amendment, introduced by senior class President David Olmsted, would require that a statistical poll be conducted to determine student opinion on any recommended change in student fees if a petition signed by ten per cent of the student body requests such a poll to be taken.

For a month now the merits and shortcomings of this poll have been the chief topics of conversation among student government leaders, politicians, and students interested in better student government.

It has been claimed that a statistical poll, which would not be binding on cabinet as it is now proposed, would be used to give cabinet members an idea of student thinking. This as far as we can see is its only virtue. On the red side of the ledger there is enough to make this amendment detrimental to student government, rather than helpful.

From the very basis of this poll—that it be initiated upon a petition signed by ten per cent of the students—to its end result—that it be used merely as a guide for cabinet—the amendment is marked with dangers.

Experience with petitions shows that almost anybody can get students, or other people for that matter, to sign almost any kind of petition. Such was the case recently when the Daily Collegian circulated a petition which, among other things, gave the bearer of the document the right to hang the signer by the neck until dead. Of the 165 students asked to sign the petition, 70 did.

Just how easy it is to get students to sign a petition was illustrated two years ago when cabinet was hearing the pros and cons of the Student Union assessment. At that time a petition bearing the signatures of 740 students was presented to cabinet by parties who did not have the respect of a large portion of the student body.

The proposal for a statistical poll of questionable accuracy creates the possibility of a situation where a poll may indicate student thinking to be in one direction while cabinet may act in another. If indeed a poll could be guaranteed in accuracy, we could say cabinet was not being representative of the student body. But if 1936 and 1948 are any indication, the accuracy of these polls is questionable.

The result of such disagreement would be the creation of a breach between students and their government.

One of the points made in discussion on the amendment has been that it would be an unnecessary crutch which cabinet would be forced to lean on. The amendment tends to take the responsibility for governing away from the responsible elected representatives of student government.

One of the benefits gained from participation in student government is that the values it teaches—among which is responsibility—are preparation for greater responsibilities in later years and away from the college campus. The amendment robs student government leaders of the opportunity to learn from this responsibility and it robs the student body of the opportunity to bear the responsibility of electing qualified and responsible officials and the responsibility of making their wishes known to these elected representatives.

The amendment does all this and more. It caters to the apathy of students and the refusal of students to take an interest in their government, for it says to the student who just doesn't care and who does not wish to participate in the affairs of the community that he need not bother with government. It says to this student: "We know you are apathetic, but that is okay; we will cater to that apathy rather than combat it."

And that is exactly what this amendment does: caters to apathy.

The framers of this amendment and those who support it are condemning the basic concept of representative democratic government: that the basis for government is in elected representatives, and going further, in the ballot box, and in the contacts, personal or otherwise, which the voter has with his representative.

The strangest thing to come out of this entire controversy is that while proposing the amendment as crutch for student government because of a lack of faith in the current representative system, Olmsted and his friends have used well the very system which they condemn.

The issue is being discussed, student opinion is being obtained, a decision will be made. The issue is being taken to the elected representatives of the students and a representative vote will be recorded tonight in cabinet.

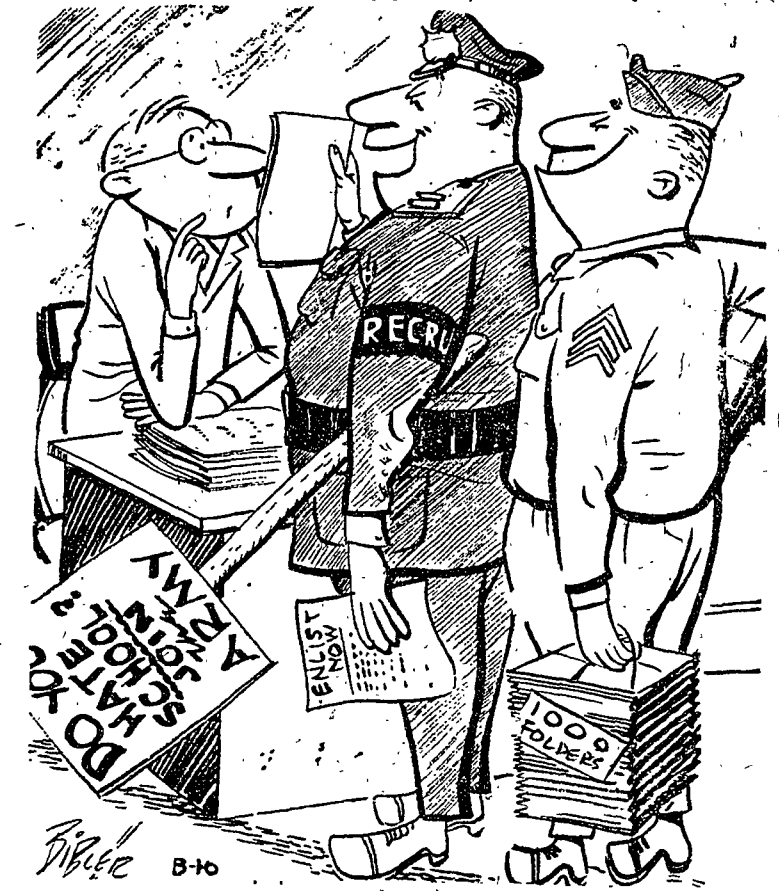
So on one hand we have the picture of Olmsted saying the representative system does not work and needs a crutch, while the same Olmsted is illustrating by his actions that it does work.

A vote for good government, student government which is more than a debating society, will be a vote against the amendment.

To be of use in the world is the only way to be happy—Hans Christian Andersen

"God will forgive me; that's his business."
 —Heinrich Heine

Little Man On Campus By Bibler



"Professor Snarf, would you mind if we stapled one of our little folders to all the bar 2 papers before you turn them back?"

The Old Millstream

By MOYLAN MILLS



If you want to get married and don't have the dough, take a tip from Serbs and earn the money for the festivities—and the first year of married life—at the wedding ceremony.

It seems there's an old Serb custom that the wedding guests at a Serb splicing have to pay a slight fee for dancing with the bride. Most of the guests desire a dance with the bride. When you have 500 or more guests at a ceremony, that means the bride and groom stand to make some nice moola.

Nick and Mira Lalich, of Baltimore, raked in \$9000 a few weeks ago from such a ceremony. The bride was slightly tired from the three days of continuous partying, but an old custom, especially a Serbian custom can't be ignored. Anyway, who would ignore \$9000?

The Serbian colony in the United States is rather small and 800 Serbians, a majority, showed up for the affair. They must have brought along plenty of pocket change for bridal dances.

At a Serb wedding, everyone gets into the act as far as throwing parties is concerned. The bride's parents, the bridesmaids, and the ushers all hosted parties within a 24-hour period. It must have seemed like IFC weekend.

But don't get the idea that dancing with the bride for money is the only ancient custom observed at Serb knot-tying.

First of all, the prospective bride receives her engagement ring embedded in an apple. Wedding rings have been known to disappear when the bride-to-be hasn't eaten for several weeks.

Another quaint custom observed by these Slavic peoples

is the buying of the bride from her parents by the head usher. Of course, the head usher is usually a sport about it and immediately gives her over to the bride-groom. The head usher and the bride's parents are sworn to secrecy and must never reveal the price paid for the bride. After all, a little disclosure of this type might ruin an otherwise happy marriage.

These weddings are definitely not fly by night affairs. Fifty women worked for more than a week to prepare the dishes for Nick's and Mira's reception. The wedding cake itself cost almost \$200.

So the happy couple is now on the way with their loot to Rio de Janeiro for a honeymoon. Everyone else connected with the wedding is probably going home to nurse their empty pockets. Then they'll have to start saving their money for the next Serbian wedding.

Maybe that's why the Serbs are such a small group in the U.S. Who can afford to such luxury as to dance with every Serbian bride? Except, of course, the grooms who get half the haul.

Gazette . . .

- Thursday, March 6
- ALPHA-NU, 102 Willard Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- ART EDUCATION FORUM, McElwain walnut lounge, 7 p.m.
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION, 304 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN, freshman board and candidates, 9 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- FROTH promotion staff, 111 Carnegie Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- HILLEL GOVERNING BOARD meeting canceled.
- INKLING PRODUCTION, 9 Carnegie Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- NEWMAN CLUB, scholastic philosophy lecture, 317 Willard Hall, 7:15 p.m.
- NEWS AND VIEWS, 14 Home Economics, 6:30 p.m.
- STATE PARTY WORKSHOP, 10 Sparks, 7 p.m.
- THETA SIGMA PHI, Grange game room, 8:45 p.m.
- WRA SWIMMING, White Hall pool, 7:30 p.m.
- COLLEGE PLACEMENT
- Actna Life Insurance Co. (Group and

- Pensions Dept.) will interview June graduates in C&F and L.A. Tuesday, March 18.
- Delaware Power and Light Co. will interview June graduates in M.E. and E.E. Monday, March 17.
- Factory Mutual will interview June graduates in I.E., E.E., M.E., C.E. and Arch.E. Monday, March 17.
- Firststone Tire and Rubber Co. will interview June graduates in E.E., M.E., Ch.E., Ag.E., Chem., L.M.R. and C & F Monday, March 17.
- Radio Corp. of America will interview graduates at all levels in Chem., Phys., M.E., I.E., C.E., L.A., L.M.R. and C & F Monday, March 17.
- Sears Roebuck and Co. will interview June graduates interested in a career with Sears Monday, March 17.
- Student Christian Movement will interview June graduates in Phys. Ed., L.A., Home Ec., Ed., Soc. and Psy. Monday, March 17.
- Dixie Cup Co. will interview June graduates in Ch., I.E., M.E., Chem. and Com. Wednesday, March 19.
- Federal Telecommunications Laboratories, Inc. will interview June graduates in E.E., Ch.E. and Chem. Wednesday, March 9.
- National Carbon Division will interview June graduates in Ch.E., M.E., I.E., E.E., Cer., Phys. and Chem. Wednesday, March 19.
- New Jersey Zinc Co. will interview June graduates in Ch.E., M.E., Min.E., E.E., C.E., Geo. and Metal. Tuesday, March 18. They will also interview 1952 M.S. and Ph.D. candidates in Ch.E. and Metal. and Ph.D. candidates only in Phys. and Chem.
- Solvay Process Division will interview June graduates in Chem. and Ch.E. Wednesday, March 19.