

The Daily Collegian

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Women Neglect Right to Vote

Talking to some coeds who are fortunate enough to be twenty-one and eligible to vote in both the primary and the general elections this year, we were rather surprised to find a large number who are either unimpressed by the privilege or refuse flatly to exercise it.

We do not contend that this is a sample poll of prevailing attitudes. Yet it is true that American citizens—especially women—often fail to make use of the privilege (or perform the duty) of voting.

We sense, too, that a major reason why women in particular neglect voting or taking other active interest in public affairs is that there is still a prevailing feeling that it's just not a woman's place to take an interest in such things. This is true whether the idea is being expressed in the worn platitude that "a woman's place is in the home" or in modern psychology's maintaining that "what all women really want is emotional security." Both are vague, empty statements attempting to suggest that there is something unfeminine or, stated more positively, something masculine, about exercising intelligent judgment and common sense in making decisions on a community or national level.

Today women can exercise these rights without being unfeminine—unless an intelligent awareness of what is happening in our country and an interest in sharing the responsibility for those happenings is innately unfeminine. We believe that this is not true. We believe that such an interest is indicative of a mature outlook on life. College students, both men and women, will provide the leaders for our generation. What kind of leadership will we provide if we lack even the interest in voting for those who govern us?

The ever-potential danger of losing the right to vote is slightly greater for women than for men, it would seem. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican Senator from Maine, points out in the February issue of the Ladies Home Journal that there are those who still suggest that woman suffrage should be done away with. She quotes a lobbyist who last year wrote in a letter, among other things, "I do not believe in democracy. I think it stinks. I don't think anybody except direct taxpayers should be allowed to vote. I don't think women should be allowed to vote at all."

Senator Smith doesn't believe there is an immediate danger that women will lose the right to vote. But she, too, points out that "women, who have more potential votes than men, do not exercise their right to vote as they should." She also says that "if women continue to fail to exercise this right, they may wake up someday and find that people who think like the \$25,000 a year lobbyists have gone to the polls in sufficient numbers and voted to bar women from voting."

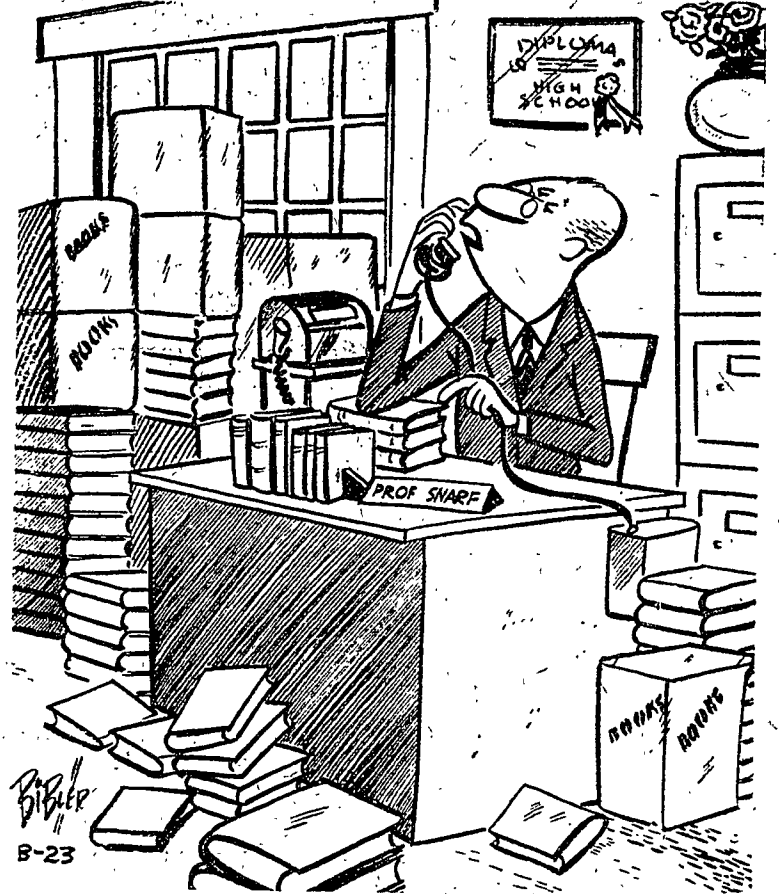
We agree with Senator Smith that there is no immediate danger of this. But it could happen. It's up to college women to see that it does not happen. It's up to college women to take an intelligent interest in public affairs.

This is not a man's world—nor is it a woman's world. It's a world for people, and it belongs to those who will take an interest in its affairs and direct them. It will be exactly the kind of place which the people living in it make of it. This is especially true of a democracy such as we have. Why shouldn't American women accept this challenge?

—LaVonne Althouse

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"Why don't I rewrite the introduction and juggle the chapters, making the '51 edition of my text obsolete . . . I'm beginning to miss that royalty check, J.B."

Strike No Solution To Food Problems

Residents of Hamilton Hall showed a definite lack of foresight last Friday night when they tried to keep the dining hall open past closing time in retaliation for slow service at the noon meal.

The slow-up, in which only 50 of 400 residents participated, was hardly successful in delaying the dining hall closing. Had it been successful, the slow-up would have merely kept the attendants working later and would not have solved the problem of eliminating future tie-ups.

Unthinking action of the sort taken by the individuals who engineered the slow-up last Friday night does nothing to avert future meal-waits. True, some action should have been taken, but not blind action.

If the persons responsible for the protest had consulted dining hall officials, they would have found out that the food department took full blame for the Friday noon tie-up and was working to alleviate a future situation which might keep students from eating meals too late for them to attend their 1 p.m. classes.

The tie-up accomplished one thing. It gave publicity to the situation, and many may think that this publicity was the factor behind the food department's willingness to talk over the situation and the subsequent apology and promise to avert a similar situation. This promise was made in a note from Mildred Baker, director of the food service, to the West Dorm Council.

However, the publicity incurred by the slow-up was not the factor which elicited a quick response from the food department. The factor was the West Dorm food committee, which has been meeting weekly with the food supervisor in the West Dorm and which has been responsible for many changes in the food program in that area.

As soon as the noon tie-up was shown to be serious, the food committee contacted the food department and the matter was straightened out. Fortunately, the slow-up wasn't serious enough to thwart the negotiations between the food committee and the food department.

Such irresponsible demonstrations only prove to the food department that the residents it is dealing with are immature. If such demonstrations become a habit after each mishap, the food department will soon be handling the situation its own way without consulting the students.

Had the Friday demonstration really tied up the dining room, the matter might still be an open wound. As it is, the matter has been straightened out to the satisfaction of the student food committee and the food department. Mishaps are bound to happen, even in the important realm of food, but a little patience and understanding rather than hot-headed action can usually settle the affair. The present settlement is a case in point.

—Moylan Mills

Just Have to Laugh At Red Hysteria

Some may scoff when we speak of the hysteria the fear of communism is producing in the United States today.

Penn State has been fortunate to escape most of that hysteria, although we have had a good sample of it in the reckless attacks by certain rabble-rousing elements of the American Legion. Look across the length and breadth of this country, however, and you can see the hysteria taking its toll, sometimes in the firing of a teacher for "radical" views, sometimes in the barring of an artist because of "communist" affiliation, sometimes for reasons nobody seems to be quite sure of.

The fear peculiar to the small town is the fear most worth fearing, for it takes the oddest courses, so ridiculous that the liberal finds it impossible to work up any wrath. He just sits and laughs, not knowing quite what for.

Such is the case of two Laceyville, Pennsylvania, high school boys who have been suspended for hanging a Russian flag across the blackboard in the school gymnasium. Before the boys admitted to the hoax, both the American Legion and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were called in on the matter.

We're wondering how somebody missed up on the National Guard and the United States Marines.

Politics? Where?

Penn State has never been a political hotbed by any stretch of the imagination. Politics are apparently "above" the concern of the students in this quiet little mountain village.

When the Daily Collegian planned its presidential preference poll, we did not expect the three ballot boxes to be stormed by hordes of students just yearning to cast their ballots. We also did not expect to receive but 223 ballots, or roughly two per cent of the student body.

What Penn State students have against politics is hard to understand. We think Penn Staters are much like college people everywhere else. The similarity ends abruptly, however, when politics comes under discussion.

In a similar poll conducted at the University of Pennsylvania, 2274 students participated. Over half the student body at Swarthmore College took part in a poll conducted there recently.

We do not know what the correlation is between those who participate in polls and those who participate in the honest-to-goodness elections. If that correlation is high, then there is something radically wrong in the thinking of Penn Staters.

Gazette . . .

Tuesday, March 11

- COLLEGIAN business candidates, 1 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN business staff, 9 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN editorial sophomore board, 2 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, TUB, 6:45 p.m.
- FROTH promotion, Froth office, 6:45 p.m.
- HAT SOCIETY COUNCIL, 101 Willard Hall, 7 p.m.
- PENN STATE CLUB, 418 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
- PANHELLENIC COUNCIL, Alpha Omega Pi Suite in McElwain, 7 p.m.
- STUDENT HANDBOOK advertising staff, 1 Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m.
- TRIBUNAL, 201 Old Main, 7 p.m.
- WRA OUTING CLUB, White Hall playroom, 7 p.m.

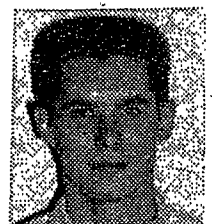
Gazette . . .

- COLLEGE PLACEMENT
- American Cyanamid Co. will interview June graduates in Ag.Ed., A.H. and Pre-Med. who are over 26 or are veterans and both B.S. and M.S. candidates in Chem., Ch.E., E.E., I.E., and M.E. Wednesday, March 19.
- Hagan Corp. will interview June graduates in M.E., E.E., and Ch.E. Thursday, March 20.
- International Harvester Co. will interview June graduates in M.E., I.E., E.E. and Metal. Thursday, March 20.
- Kurt Salmon Associates, Inc. will interview June graduates in I.E. Wednesday, March 19.
- Line Material Co. will interview June graduates in M.E. and E.E. Thursday, March 20.
- Parke, Davis and Co. will interview June graduates and 1952 M.S. candidates in Bact. and Zool. Friday, March 21. They will interview both men and women in Chem. and Ag.Bio.Chem.
- Pisceski Helicopter Corp. will interview

- June graduates in Aero.Eng. and M.E. Wednesday, March 19.
- American Smelting and Refining Co. will interview June graduates in Metal. and Min.E. Monday, March 24.
- Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. will interview June graduates in Commerce Monday, March 24.
- Corning Glass Co. will interview June graduates in M.E., Ch.E., E.E., I.E., and Cer. Monday, March 24. They will interview Chem. and Phys. graduates at all levels.
- Curtiss Wright Corp. (Propeller Division) will interview June graduates in Aero.E., M.E. and E.E. Wednesday, March 19.
- Dr. Paul E. Williams will interview June graduates in Metal., M.E., E.E., C.E., Fuel Tech., C&F, A&L, Chem., Pre-Med., Zoo., Sci. and M.S. or B.S. candidates with experience in Bact. Monday, March 24.
- Rohm and Haas Co. will interview June graduates in Ch.E. Chem. and Phys. Monday, March 24.
- United Aircraft Corp. will interview June graduates in M.E. and Aero.E. Monday, March 24.

Fundamental Issues

By LEN KOLASINSKI



War is not inevitable. But that statement alone will not suffice to prevent World Wars III, IV, and/or V. Behind it is a manner of thinking which refuses to acknowledge that war will follow when diplomatic relations are strained. It seeks the compromise and believes in fluid rather than rigid foreign policies.

Today, the lines that separate Russia and the United States are rather rigid but not quite brittle. When foreign policies become brittle, they break easily and war is the result.

Looking at the situation which exists, observers come up with a number of reasons why war between Russia and the United States is not imminent—and perhaps, not probable. In the first instance, some feel that Stalin isn't willing to commit Russia to a world conflict that could lead to Stalingrads such as Russia experienced in World War II. Other observers believe that the United States and the Soviet can compromise on many issues which now seem irreconcilable. Another reason given is that the armament of the West will eventually match that of Russia with a resulting stalemate in armed might.

Each point has something to offer. The last mentioned is becoming a reality as NATO gains momentum, teeth, and realization. Point two, however, seems the most difficult to accept. Any session of the United Nations General Assembly will show how difficult it is for the United States and Russia to meet each other half way on major issues. Compromise doesn't seem possible amidst the vituperative exchanges between delegates in the assembly gatherings.

Point three deserves exploration. Why would Stalin be unwilling to send his legions across Europe? One reason has been suggested, and that is that he doesn't want the destruction of Russian territory. Then too, Russian gains in Eastern Europe—in the satel-

lite countries—would be placed in jeopardy. Behind that facade of Communist control there is an element which desires the freedom of pre-Kremlin dictatorship. A world war would upset seven years of work by the Soviet to master those European nations. Striking deeper into the heart of the matter—Stalin knows that his slave workers' camps at home are a threat which, during a general war, would be an asset to an army fighting its way through Russia. Estimates place that slave population in figures ranging from six to 20 millions of people. The explosive punch of this group cannot be compared to that capable of being rendered by a trained army, but as an element to confuse, sabotage, and create miniature revolutions this slave camp group is invaluable.

Furthermore, as has been pointed out in a previous article, Russia need not use her own manpower resources as long as Asia remains in a turmoil created by Red China.

But while an analysis of the Russian scene indicates that Stalin is not prepared politically to start World War III, the United States and the West should be aware of the danger that Stalin may not move only as long as he feels that he isn't trapped. The lines must not become brittle. And as the West races to build its military forces, it must offer to compromise issues rather than to throw its weight around, thereby offering Stalin an excuse for the next world war.