

# The Daily Collegian

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## Misinterpretations Lead to Trouble

In a letter to the editor received yesterday, a student had some quarrels with the political system at Penn State. In part he said, "Officials of the Lion and State parties recently agreed that nominations for the office of All-College president will, hereafter, be limited to fraternity people only. Agreement was also made that nominations for the office of senior class president will be limited to independents."

Just where this student got his information is a mystery, but it is quite obvious that he has either misinterpreted the campus political situation, or been sadly misled as to the actual facts. Anyone at all familiar with politics here realizes that these charges are rather ridiculous, but it is such misguided statements which could spread to other students who have no way of knowing the truth.

To prevent this, it is necessary to set a few things straight.

It is quite possible that the student who wrote the letter had misunderstood what has long been custom here. Ever since All-College Cabinet was founded in 1939, there has been a standing agreement between the two campus parties that no fraternity man shall run for any office against an independent.

There have been a number of reasons for this decision. The chief reason is to prevent bitter fights and antagonism between the two groups such as those which now exist at Penn and Pitt. Such fights can only lead to long-run unsatisfactory results. Such an agreement also prevents one group from monopolizing offices to the detriment of the other group. Relations between fraternity men and independents at Penn State have been quite good, but the adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" holds true in this case.

There is another area in which the letter-writer might have been misled. It has been an established policy of both parties to alternate class and All-College offices between independents and fraternity men each year. This policy has been known to the upper strata of the parties for some time, but to our knowledge has never really been common knowledge. This custom, like the previous mentioned one, is to prevent friction between the major social groups on campus. It also assures these groups of fair and equal play as far as political power goes.

Looking back over the results of these policies, it is difficult to find many cases where poor men were elected to office. After all, a man should be elected on the basis of his qualities, not the social category into which he fits.

When any political campaign gets started there are always those who are suspicious of everything. At times such suspicion is good, but often it merely shows the immaturity of the person involved. There are many immature people at Penn State. The success of our student government, however, seems to indicate that the mature greatly outnumber the immature.

## 'Poverty' Confusion Unfortunate Event

The sophomore class had an unnecessary damper put on the spirit of its scheduled Poverty Day yesterday as a result of a late official pronouncement from the administration that it was definitely opposed to the revival of the old tradition.

Although the event was not called off, there was sufficient pressure, particularly in women's dormitories, from house mothers to remove what fun there could have been in the event for the majority of the class. If the administration was so opposed to the revival of the tradition, which is said to have gotten out of control in by-gone days, it should have clearly expressed its stand in advance.

From what we were able to observe on campus yesterday, there were no indications of absurd, lewd, or indecent attire. With the excep-

tion of a few novel hats and some worn out tails, the dress worn by students was not that different from what would ordinarily be worn on campus.

Although we do not advocate hobo clothing for the well-dressed man on campus, we can see no serious drawbacks in a day such as the sophomores sponsored. True, such an event could get out of hand, but with proper clarification from the administration beforehand, confusion, dissention, and exaggerated hobbing could definitely be avoided.

The administration, however, is justified in its complaint that the Daily Collegian printed two stories in which it was stated that the event had administrative approval. On the other hand, we do not feel that the administration acted on time. Instead of letting class leaders put in all the work necessary for the project, the administration should have voiced its definite disapproval more than 24 hours before the event.

As for the idea itself, we agree with cabinet—and approve such an event. After all, the attire normally worn on campus is not so drastically different from that which was seen yesterday. Of interest, too, is the fact that at Princeton University, certainly a highly rated institution, the typical daily attire is dirty khakis and dirty white bucks.

It is unfortunate that the sophomore class could not get the fullest possible success from its Poverty Day. In the future, it is hoped that similar confusion can be avoided.

—Mimi Ungar

## Safety Valve—

### Where's Mr. Craige?

TO THE EDITOR: Speaking as a member of a stagnant generation of students, I must confess utter failure in two days' untiring attempts to translate N. Fitzgerald Craige's undisputable intellectual criticism, appearing in Tuesday's Collegian, of Players' experimental product of "Lute Song." This failure on my part could be a lack of simple common sense. Nevertheless, one point was made saliently apparent: Mr. Craige is an authority on the theater. Why, oh, why has this genius of theatrical wisdom been neglecting his aesthetic duty?

To my knowledge, Mr. Craige has never contributed his priceless talents to the betterment of any dramatic organization on campus. As a member of Players, I know for a fact that the Players' Organization, both student members and faculty, would be only too happy to welcome into its group one such as Mr. Craige who would most undoubtedly elevate the level of Players' mediocre dramatic attempts. I am glad to state that it is not too late for this gentleman to contribute his rare talents to the art of dramatics on this campus. I would like to remind Mr. Craige that Players have two more shows to "execute."

In closing, I feel that the Collegian should be commended for printing not only extremely educational but also most enlightening bits of literary gems as Mr. Craige's brilliant—I repeat—brilliant criticism of "Lute Song!"

—Allen M. Adair

## Radio Guild Hit

TO THE EDITOR: I have just finished listening to "Spotlight on State," a Penn State Radio Guild production (by its own admission). This is a new low in Radio Guild presentations. Of all the hacked up, ill planned, poorly executed programs, this took the blue ribbon, sounding as if it were thrown together five minutes before air time.

Aside from the dismal efforts of the production personnel, it would appear that the Radio Guild has no engineering talent, or at least doesn't make use of what it may have.

If this is the best that the Radio Guild has to offer, it better hand in its charter.

—Name withheld

Ed. note: The program referred to is Thursday night's production, which included excerpts from the sophomore class barbershop quartet finals held Wednesday night in Schwab Auditorium.

## Gazette...

Saturday, March 21, 1953

DEMOLAY DEGREE TEAM, trip to Bellefonte, 2 p.m., behind Old Main.

THETA SIGMA PHI, 9 a.m., Grange playroom.

Monday, March 23, 1953

ALPHA PHI OMEGA, brothers meeting, 7 p.m., 3 Sparks.

HONOR SOCIETY COUNCIL, 4 p.m., 241 Sparks.

### COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Richard Denison, Edwin Eckl, Jay Freedman, John Higgins, Richard Rohland, Don Bailey, Eugene Bernstein, Vivian Drayer, Morton Farber, Sidney Fogelman, Mark Goldman, Victor Hajjar, James Hoerle, Ruth Israel, Delbert Kohn, Richard Kramer, Jane Lamont, Dale Matson, Robert Murray, Elizabeth Phillips, Joseph W. Powdrell, Charles Rife, Jerome Sadosky, Carl Schrock, Howard M. Schwartz, Richard E. Smith, Muriel Stein, Lee Wetmore, Beverly Willensky, William Witlen and Richard Zamsky.

### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Boys wanted to work for meals on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, for the rest of the semester.

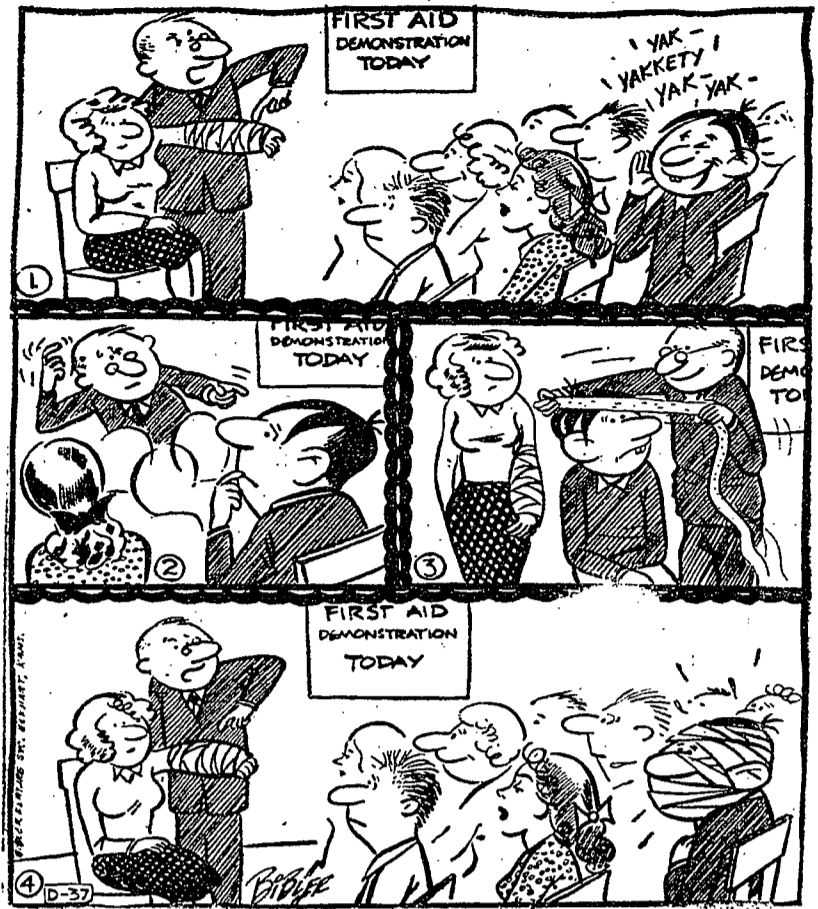
Summer resort seeking three or four piece combo.

Camp Skycrest, Pa., will interview boys March 28.

Couple without children wanted for summer employment near State College.

Waiters wanted for permanent work.

## Little Man On Campus By Bibler



### Interpreting the News

## Suspicion Increases Over Military Effort

By DON WHITEHEAD

For J. M. ROBERTS JR.

Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON, March 20 (AP)—Increased grumblings and suspicions are being heard in Washington and elsewhere today that the American people are not being given the whole truth about conduct of the nation's military effort.

It's a problem closely related to the people's trust and confidence in our military and civilian leadership—and one that is urgently demanding a solution.

The corrosive actions of suspicion and distrust can themselves in a measure defeat the defense buildup. And certainly they are packed with political dynamite for the Eisenhower administration.

The undercurrent of doubt boiled into open skepticism when the Senate Armed Services Committee in effect refused to accept the argument by Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Army chief of staff, that there never has been an ammunition shortage in Korea. An investigation was ordered into Gen. James A. Van Fleet's claim that shortages existed during the 22 months he commanded the Eighth Army—and some still exist.

This doubt was reflected, too, in the widespread attention given to the recent Philadelphia speech by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), who said if people knew the truth about our military situation there would be a wholesale reorganization of the Defense Department.

Symington formerly was secretary of the Air Force and thus had access to a great many of the secrets and intelligence of the military establishment in addition to having a knowledge of how the military works.

His thesis was that the defense effort is "suffering from inside competition" among the three services and this nation would not be prepared to cope with an atomic attack if it came. His proposal was more guns and less butter.

President Eisenhower told his news conference Thursday he believed in a reasonable posture of defense. The kernel, of course, is what he meant by a "reasonable posture." He indicated it would be no less than the goals fixed under the Truman administration—although he hoped to get more defense with the same dollars through economy.

Sen. Taft (R-Ohio), GOP leader in the Senate, has come to believe the time is ripe for a new look at the armed services requirements.

"I think we have got to look at the whole picture and see what needs to be done," Taft said.

Along this line, Julius Ochs Ad-

ler, general manager of the New York Times, put a finger squarely on part of the trouble in a speech today before the armed forces information school at Fort Slocum, N.Y.

Adler said there has been "an immense barrier of over-secrecy" in the military and civilian government which is damaging national security.

Referring to what he called "a trend toward over-classification and ultra secrecy," Adler said: "They have been self-defeating and instead of helping to preserve our strength, they have far too often cloaked weaknesses of which the public should be aware."

Secretary of Defense Wilson proved he was a great production man as head of General Motors. Now he has another kind of production problem—how to produce confidence in the operation of the military establishment.

The chances are it never can be done under the cloak of secrecy.

## Include Reds In Exchange Plan, Fulbright Urges

Russians and other Communists should ultimately be included in the educational exchange program, Senator J. William Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat, recently stated.

It would be a good idea, "propaganda-wise," to bring "these people to appreciate the error of their ways" and the correctness of the democratic system, the senator said.

"I can't see any danger from having some known Communists among us whom we have invited over to take a look at our country," Fulbright declared in a radio interview. "It is the unknown Communist, the one who is burrowing from within in disguise, who threatens us," he said.

Fulbright conceded it would not be "feasible" to try to bring Russians into the program at present. Communist-dominated Hungary and Poland had once been considering participating in the program until they "obviously were told they couldn't do it," Fulbright declared.