

The Daily Collegian

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Paperbound Texts Would Cut Costs

(Reprinted from The Cavalier Daily, University of Virginia, March 18, 1953.)

"This nation spends five times as much every year on dogfood as it does on college textbooks," we are informed by the current bulletin of the American Textbook Publishers Institute.

We are also told that less than one per cent of the educational dollar is spent on textbooks, and that textbook prices have climbed only 39 per cent since 1939, while book manufacturing costs have gone up more than 70 per cent, and wholesale commodity prices have been upped more than 120 per cent.

While this assortment of facts is interesting and no doubt quite reliable, we are puzzled. Is the purpose of the ATPI to preface and softpedal a boost in the cost of textbooks, or is it about to shirk the publishing racket and enter the dogfood business, since there seems to be so much money in it?

At any rate, allow us to make a suggestion to the American Textbook Publishers Institute—since so many books are now being published in paperbound pocket editions, why can't more textbooks be made available in a similar format?

The benefits of such a step, both for the professor and for the student, are multiple and manifest. The student would be able to purchase much more for his money by paying 35, 50, or 60 cents for a textbook rather than several dollars.

Paperbacked textbooks would be easy to handle, easy to carry, and could be stocked in large enough quantities by the bookstores to prevent shortages. The professor could offer his students a wider range of reading if enough books were made available in pocket editions, as has already been demonstrated in the English (literature) department where extensive use is being made of paperbacked books.

There can be little practical objection to the printing of textbooks in cheap editions—if it is possible to publish such diversified material as Barlett's Quotations (abridged), dictionaries, world atlases, and poetry anthologies (all of which are now on the newsstands), it must also be possible to print histories, economics texts, etc., in similar style.

Both the educator and the student are faced with financial problems today—a reduction in the cost of textbooks would help make educational ends meet a little easier.

—William L. Tazewell

More Care Needed In Posting Signs

Each year as the campus political campaigns open, both parties rush to indiscriminately plaster downtown store windows with posters expostulating on the merits of the various candidates. Every year, too, most of these posters are either torn down or taken down by the store owners. Sometimes the absence of the posters brings charges by one party against the other.

It would seem that by this time the campus politicians would have learned a few lessons regarding posters. Evidently, they have not.

In the first place, it seems only proper that local merchants be asked if posters may be taped to their windows. In some cases this has been done, and usually in these cases, the posters have remained up longer than usual.

But the best thing to do would be to get permission to place posters inside the windows, thus eliminating the problems of souvenir seekers, the not too gentle April breezes, the students who on Saturday night are "feeling good," the overzealous party workers, and the littered State College streets—an eyesore unappreciated by the borough fathers.

If the party leaders would be willing to take a little more time in getting their posters put up, rather than trying to "get there the fastest with the mostest," their poster campaigns might be less expensive as well as more effective.

Education Budget Shouldn't Be Cut

The taxpayers of Pennsylvania are overjoyed by the proposed economy cut in appropriations for state departments. With the high cost of living, this is politically a good idea, especially with elections in the near future. However, one little point has been neglected by the taxpayers in their joyous anticipation of no tax increase. If the proposed budget decrease goes through, the schools in the state will suffer more than anything else.

If educational facilities suffer, in the long run, so will the state and its residents. Much has been written about the small amount of American revenue that goes into the educational system, but the problem still exists. Program after program has received big bonuses and appropriation while the money received by schools remains relatively the same—small.

Among the many things to be denied the College if the proposed plan goes through are the new animal and poultry disease laboratory, the state's share of the atomic reactor cost, salary increases for College employees, and replacement of the swine which were destroyed by last year's plague. Many of the programs for which the College requires money will benefit the people within the state more than the College itself in the long run.

No matter what sarcastic remarks are made along the line, the future of the world, country, and state depends upon educating the youth of today. Education receives little enough—must the proposed economy cut take such a large slice from a program so vital to the world of today?

—Al Munn

Student Handbook

The business manager of the Student Handbook for 1953-54, Morton Zieve, has called for volunteers to work on the advertising staff. Student support of the publication on both the advertising and editorial staffs will be necessary for the success of the handbook.

The incoming freshman's opinion of the College will be formed to some extent by the impression he receives from the handbook. In order to create the most favorable impression possible, the efforts of many will be necessary.

—Dick Rau

Safety Valve—

Objections to Calendar

TO THE EDITOR: We would like to protest the new calendar revision.

The College Senate approved the new plan which is supposed to meet all objections formerly expressed. According to the new plan, the Thanksgiving recess will be 4½ days long. In the catalog for the 1953-54 session, the same length of time is given. Neither is the spring recess different under the new plan.

One change is that a longer vacation at mid-semester will occur. Why make it so long that the spring semester must be lengthened? Even C. O. Williams, the dean of admissions, should not need this much time to prepare for registration.

The College Senate explained the increased length of the spring semester is a means to compensate for "days lost during Thanksgiving vacation, and Memorial Day, when it occurs during the period scheduled for classes, for days lost by administrative proclamation for special occasions, and for the increased mid-semester vacation." This means that most students won't be able to work in the summer until the middle of the third week in June.

Does the College Senate realize how difficult it is to obtain summer employment even now when students reach home by the second week in June? Employers want summer employees to start work as early as possible. They won't hold off hiring until the Penn State students can come home. Instead, they are going to hire those who are available when the employers need them. The longer the time before they can work, the less the possibilities of obtaining a well-paying job.

There are many students who need these jobs to continue their education.

The College Senate should look into the possibilities of shortening the vacation at mid-semester and bringing the close of the spring semester nearer the beginning of June.

—Names withheld

Gazette...

April 15, 1953

AGRICULTURE CLUB, 7 p.m., 210 Agriculture.

CHESS CLUB, 7 p.m., 3 Sparks.

WRA LACROSSE CLUB, 4:15 p.m., 1 White Hall, experienced and inexperienced.

MARKETING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Beta Theta Pi.

MI STUDENT COUNCIL, 7 p.m., 208 Willard.

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB, 7 p.m., 204 Burrowes.

RIDING CLUB, canceled.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Camp Conrad Weiser, Pa., will interview men April 16 and 17.

Camp Starlight, Pa., will interview men and women April 17.

Camp Nokomis, New York, will interview men and women April 23.

Married couple without children for summer job near State College.

Men wanted for general outdoor work, garden and lawn care, etc.

Asbury Arlington Hotel, New Jersey, will interview men and women, April 24.

Men with half-days wanted for the remainder of the semester.

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"New faculty member named Carter—beginning teacher, single—no dependents."

WISE AND OTHERWISE

Liberal Education Lacks Full Meaning

By DAVE JONES

Too many colleges are failing to give the full meaning and purpose of a liberal education, according to a recent report from the Ford Foundation. The foundation based its report on a survey concerning student transition from high school to college.

Too many students, the report says, never know what a liberal education is. Many find out only after they have completed their college careers.

Students in the survey had three major complaints, all of which have often been applied to Penn State by its students.

Students generally complained about poor teaching, especially in the first two years of college and in basic or survey courses. The majority of students questioned felt they had better teaching in the last two years of high school than in the first two of college.

Students also complained about the impersonality of the large university. This has also been one student complaint against Penn State, but that complaint is not valid.

College students who cannot adjust themselves to the impersonality of a large university will not be able to adjust themselves to an even more impersonal and larger world upon graduation. The individual, in his tendency toward becoming lost in the society, has been forced to adjust himself to that society. Those who cannot conquer the largeness of a college are, perhaps, somewhat immature.

The advantages of a large university often outweigh the disadvantages of its size. Through its largeness, such a college may often provide wider academic opportunities and improved educational facilities. And, except for a few cases, the larger university is better able to enlist outstanding professors and speakers than a small college. The individual educational cost at a large university is often lower.

Perhaps the most important criticism of colleges, and a valid one, is the lack of stimulus to active, independent thinking. "We find clear evidence of wasteful duplication and of barren work," the report said. "We find important gaps in training and intellectual experience. Most serious of all, we find that many students do not do as well as they should."

Many students favored a more mature approach to learning, especially in the last year of school. They favored the use of advanced texts and source materials, assignments in larger blocks, more training in critical

analysis, and a chance to work on their own.

Penn State, unfortunately, in many ways suffers from this immature approach to learning, and perhaps in a greater extent from immature approaches to learning.

Too many professors believe class attendance and grades more important than learning. Too many students believe the same things. Regulation of class cutting and intentional scheduling of exams before vacations are two examples of this immature approach.

Such a learning approach is necessitated by the type of student. As long as we educate on quantity rather than quality, such controls will be necessarily placed on students. And not until education returns to a select number will those controls be removed.

Engineer Field To Be Studied

A program to study educational techniques used in training engineers is being introduced to the College by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation. This program will be known as the George Westinghouse Professorship in Engineering Education.

The program is designed to provide educational short cuts in the engineering field and to supply better-trained engineers to alleviate the shortage.

The job of the scientist who will be chosen for the George Westinghouse Professorship will be to define and refine the liberal and cultural needs of engineering students in relation to their scientific background.

Tickets Now Available For Forestry Banquet

Tickets for the annual Forestry Banquet sponsored by the Forestry Society are on sale at the main office of the Forestry Building.

Price of the tickets, which may also be purchased from officers of the Forestry Society, is \$3. The banquet will be held May 1 at the Nittany Lion Inn.