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The Daily Collegian

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Elections: Leading the Horse to Water

This spring's experience with decentralized voting was a bitter one, and it will be a long time before students attempt it again.

Decentralized voting was an experiment in the spring elections designed to increase interest in student government. Four polls were located throughout the campus to expand voting facilities which were formerly located in Old Main. By increasing the number of polling places and making the voting process readily available to more students, the All-University elections committee expected an increased vote percentage.

Advocates of decentralized voting thought it might increase the percentage by as much as 10 per cent. Even the most skeptical thought the percentage would rise 5 per cent or more. Decentralization was opposed because of the increased chance of error and the extra work that would be involved; opponents felt hand-counting the ballots would not be worth the percentage increase that would result.

Contrary to what opponents feared, the election went off without any apparent mistakes. No error crept in and no one voted twice. The downfall came where it was least expected—in the percentage of increase.

This spring, 46.8 per cent of eligible voters

cast ballots. Last spring, a then all time high of 44.9 per cent voted. Decentralized voting, then, may be credited with increasing the vote percentage only 1.9 per cent. Of course, the percentage may have been much lower without decentralization. Yet, there is no way to predict it would have been.

Decentralization ruled out the use of voting machines in this year's election. Thus, the elections committee hand-counted every ballot, a count which lasted until 1 a.m. Friday. The small percentage of increase was obviously not worth the extra work involved.

The elections committee chairman and his committee members are disappointed with the outcome. The chairman has said he will recommend only two polls for next year. Based on this year's experience, two polls may bring a 1 per cent increase. If having two polls next spring would mean hand-counting, the elections committee had better drop this idea also. Decentralization must be forgotten unless machines can be employed.

Student government attempted to take the voting process to more students. The students still did not care to take part. This may well be a lesson for the future—and a familiar lesson it is: you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

Campus Grass and the Military Step

The efforts of the University and portions of the student body to make the campus beautiful seem to be futile gestures when the military steps into the picture.

The University has spent thousands of dollars planting grass seed and fertilizing lawns. An estimated \$5000 will have been spent by the end of the semester.

Campus organizations have launched campaigns urging students and faculty members to take pride in the campus and avoid shortcuts. Alpha Phi Omega, men's national service fraternity, has spent time and energy posting signs reminding pedestrians that a few extra steps can mean the difference between attractive green lawns and unsightly brown paths.

Monday was a rainy day. Rain is supposedly beneficial to lawns, but only if the grass is untrampled. Monday was also the day when several thousand men in Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps were scheduled for leadership laboratory.

Within a few minutes after the cadets began to drill, the turf in front of Old Main had suffered immensely.

Obviously this is not desirable.

However, ROTC is required of all able-bodied

freshman and sophomore men, and of juniors and seniors seeking commissions upon entering the armed forces after graduation.

ROTC students must drill, and they must have a place to drill. Since construction was started on the new Student Union Building, Holmes Field is unavailable, and the lawn in front of Old Main seems to be the only centrally-located area large enough to be used as a drill field.

The ROTC departments should, as a part of the University, feel a responsibility for the appearance of the campus. Rainy day drills are no indication of any recognition of this responsibility.

Similarly, the University, as a land grant institution, is obligated to support the military training program, and has the responsibility of providing adequate space for use in the training program.

An investigation of the problem is needed. Unless a solution is found, attempts to improve the appearance of the largest, most central, and most potentially beautiful lawn on campus can only end in wasting energy.

—Tammie Bloom

Harder Steel

Reading over again the effects wrought by the hydrogen bomb explosion, one can only sigh at the possibility of a future war. That the world has been stirred by the effects of the blast is putting the situation mildly.

To say that we have harnessed a tremendous energy is by now a mere platitude. And, to say that this energy may be used for horribly destructive purposes is also a platitude.

Prime Minister Nehru of India called for a standstill pact which would bar any more hydrogen bomb explosions. Prime Minister Churchill assured Britain the H-bomb in the hands of the United States serves as a deterrent to war. Premier Malenkov warned Russians that an atomic war could mean the destruction of civilization. For once, we must agree with Premier Malenkov.

Must we forever live under that sword of Damocles, war?

But, worse yet, we seem no closer to a solution of our differences, and the lessening of tensions throughout the world. Even now, we project renewed warfare in Indo-China while an Arab-Israeli conflict threatens at any moment.

Renewed efforts are surely needed for a lessening of world tensions: we should strive for a modus vivendi between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. Perhaps a meeting of the president and the premier is called for.

Actually, it is not the case that we are closer to an atomic war; rather, the hydrogen bomb should mean that we ought to be sobered by the new destructiveness made possible in a future war.

The sword doesn't necessarily hang by a thinner thread—it is just that we have hardened the steel.

—Len Goodman

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The following camp will interview at the Student Employment Service, 112 Old Main: Camp Skycrest on April 12. Sign up for interviews in advance.

Ray with experience in electronics work.

Safety Valve—Chapel and Faith

TO THE EDITOR: The Collegian of April 6 carried the first account of student reactions to the proposed Georgian All-Faith Chapel.

The members of the student body sincerely interested in their chapel, and it will be their chapel, must have been glad indeed to see the immediate movement on the part of their fellow students towards a contemporary design rather than the announced pseudo-Georgian design.

The idea of a building tied by tradition to certain ideals and faiths cannot possibly be expected to represent all faiths. It would surely be more appropriate to have a contemporary building which could truly express its purpose and function.

Let us hope that the new chapel will not represent a combination of denominations but will instead represent faith.

—Judith A. Byrne

Gazette...

Sunday

ADVERTISING CLINIC, 7 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
CENTRAL PROMOTION AGENCY, 8 p.m., Carnegie

HILLEL UPPERCLASS INDEPENDENTS, 7 p.m., Hillel Foundation
LION PARTY STEERING COMMITTEE, 2 p.m., 317 Willard

Monday

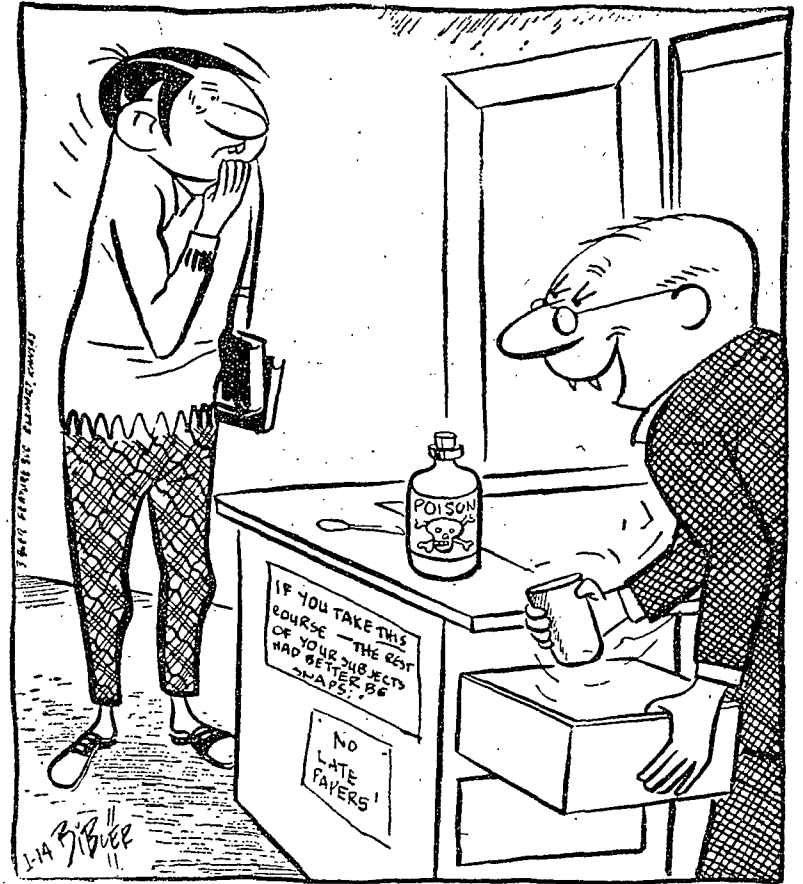
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., 14 Frear

INFIRMARY

Jesse Arnette, Paul Bengston, Lois Beun, Robert Broomfield, Beth Casey, Weichung Chen, Harriet Cohn, Joyce Frank, Baylee Friedman, Joseph Geubtner, Richard Goldbeck, Gerald Kates, Harry Kline, Samuel Lewis, Howard McKee, Barbara Olson, Robert Prickett, Margaret Roberts, John Shafer, Helen Sidman, Hygin Starry, Muriel Stein, Roger Vogelsinger.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"YES" to both your questions—This IS a required course and there IS a way out of it."

Kahler Says:

Background Mirrored In Kafka's Works

By NANCY FORTNA

To understand the writings of Franz Kafka, one of the most widely translated German authors of this century, the city in which he lived, the medieval life which lingered there, and the prominence of the family must be considered.

Speaking Thursday night at the second Simmons lecture, Erich

Kahler, historian and professor in the German department at Cornell University, impressed upon his audience the extreme importance Kafka's background had on his writing.

Kahler said that what transpires through all Kafka's works is the story of the predicament of modern man. Kafka felt the problems of his own personal life were universal in man.

Kafka, who lived from 1883 to 1924, was a native of Prague, Czechoslovakia. This city was the capital of Bohemia in Kafka's youth. The lecturer, who is also a native of Prague, said the whole city had the character of a ghetto. Nature was kept out. He continued to describe the city and said that Prague was unique in that it was not a mere museum of medievalism, but that medieval life lingered on in the manner and habits of the people.

Within the city, Kahler said, was a large Jewish community with approximately 20 synagogues.

"His (Kafka's) visions and his style of experience grew out of this atmosphere," Kahler said.

Speaking about the family life during Kafka's time, Kahler told his audience that the prominence of the family was most predominant in the Jewish family. The people carried their childhood through all their life, he said. Kafka admitted this himself, Kahler said, when he wrote, "I shall never grow up to be a man."

Kafka's father, the lecturer said, though a naive, impulsive tyrant, was very efficient. He was a loving man, but despotically ruled his family. Kafka, Kahler said, had a father complex. "His whole work is an attempt at self-justification," he said.

Referring to the writer's relation to God, Kahler said that Kafka hardly ever used the word "God," but his whole thinking and writing centered around a supreme being. He quoted Kafka who said, "Man cannot live without a permanent faith in something indestructible in himself."

Explaining Kafka's style, Kahler said the writer had a style of flawless purity. Kafka's thinking, he said, expresses itself immediately in visions. Kahler said in Kafka there is no transposition between thinking and seeing. It is this, he said, which makes Kafka so difficult because people usually seek something behind

these visions. However, he said, "Kafka's stories are not symbolic." "The great fame and influence of Kafka," the lecturer said, "is not just an accident. It is due to the metaphysical concerns of the writer which became the innermost concerns of every man of his time."

Press to Run Cheney Photo

A picture of Alyce Cheney, Penn State's entry in the Pittsburgh Press campus queen contest, will appear in the ROTC section of the Press tomorrow along with pictures of queens from 29 other colleges and universities in the Tri-State area.

Students will be given an opportunity to vote for the final winner through ballots which will be printed in the Press.

A picture of the final intercollegiate campus queen will appear in full-color on the front page of the ROTC section sometime in May.

Miss Cheney, a second semester education major, was chosen by student vote in March. She was sponsored by Beta Theta Pi.

To Air 'Parcifal'

Station WDFM will broadcast the complete opera "Parcifal" (Wagner) from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. tomorrow. "Parcifal" is a traditional Easter opera presented annually by the Metropolitan Opera Co.

This Weekend On WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

Tonight		Sign On
7:25	Music of the People	7:30
8:00	Jazz Moods	8:30
8:30	Paris Star Time	9:00
9:00	Music	10:30
10:30	Sign Off	
Tomorrow		Sign On
10:50 a.m.	Chapel Service	7:25 p.m.
7:25 p.m.	Opera House—"Parcifal"	7:30
7:30	Sign Off	
Monday		Sign On
7:25	Sign On	7:30
7:30	Sportlight	7:45
7:45	Broadway in Review	8:00
8:00	Top Drawer	8:15
8:15	Hamburger Stand	9:00
9:00	Just Out	9:15
9:15	News	9:30
9:30	Symphony Hall	10:30
10:30	Sign Off	