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# The Daily Collegian

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## Sophisticated Religion: For Mature Thinkers

University undergraduates like to think of themselves as mature. They are mature in many ways. They are called professional-like on the stage, their art work is exhibited, they tour Europe on concert, and they graduate as lieutenants.

But they are not mature in all ways. The mass of University students are aware of religion in much the same way that they were aware of it in grade school.

Religion to too many University students is Church or Chapel on Sunday morning before the funnies can be read, singing or listening to music, hearing scripture, being preached to, being in youth activities programs, and having official status as a church member.

This shallow mold into which childish religious ideas have been pushed cannot hold its own in the face of higher education. It is inadequate—often it is abandoned in disgust during four intense years of study.

The co-editor of the Daily Tar Heel in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, said that the result of this educational advancement is that the student can't sing the old hymn, "Give me that old-time religion . . ." without pangs of conscience and loss of intellectual self-respect, and hence he stops singing hymns altogether. He finds a few rotten apples in his barrel of religious ideas, and concludes that all of them are beyond saving.

What happens as a result, the co-editor said, is that the student's university days never take on the meaning they should as a period of honest questioning, of sincere search; and, still further, the graduate may never come up with a sound faith of philosophy but will relax into patterns of social and moral conformity which make him little more than an automaton.

In an editorial in the Cornell Daily Sun, Keith Johnson said: "All too frequently, we see men and women who come to college practicing some form of religious faith which is on a high-school level, if possessed of any intellectual sophistication at all.

"And what happens? They encounter many new ideas, many new solutions to the great questions to which their faith has previously provided the answers, or at least suggested them, and out goes the faith for what is sometimes a perfectly candid hedonism, an avowed pursuit of virtually animal pleasures and comforts for their own sake.

"We would have no objection to this process whatsoever, save for one thing. In the process, the faith which has been affirmed is never given serious, mature, intellectual, or emotional examination. So, for example, a grade-school version of Christianity is discarded for a serious version of what-have-you—on the rather dubious assumption that a little bit of cheap sentimentalism is what has been responsible for the development of Christianity from around A.D. 30 until the present day.

"Religious belief can certainly be rejected fairly, but this is a travesty upon intellectual honesty which students permit themselves with rather alarming frequency."

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Protestant theologian, said, "The fact is that the religious faith which

was regarded as completely outmoded in the days when those of us who are now old were in college has become a live option, not only for the 'simple and credulous' but for the sophisticated."

It is not altogether the student's fault that he is religiously apathetic as well as religiously immature.

We are aware of the professor who takes potshots at religious belief from Monday until Friday and shows up for services on Sunday morning.

Frank Sheed, Catholic publisher, has pointed out that a world modeled according to the teachings of many cold-blooded classroom materialists, with their mechanistic theories about man, would not be safe for people as gentle as professors.

The main thought, though, is not that University undergraduates are turning away from religious concepts for strictly scientific ones.

The trend, according to Will Herberg, book critic for Commentary Magazine, is toward that which was shunned in the twenties. Mr. Herberg, in a recent issue of Commentary, said: "Of course the mass of students like the mass of Americans are still religiously illiterate and secular-minded. But the intellectual tone has begun to change. Even the obduracy and indifference are of a less order: the indifference is less assured, the obduracy is more serious and sophisticated. Increasing numbers of students are aware of a deepening religious concern. And the intellectual vagabond on the campus is definitely thinking along new lines that made Kierkegaard, Niebuhr, Tillich, Maritain, de Lubac, Buber, Rosenzweig and Heschel the 'idea-men' of the time."

Dr. Nathan M. Pusey, president of Harvard has said the University's obligation is "to confront the evil idea current in the East with the ideals which have been fundamental in the growth of Western civilization."

The baneful ideas Dr. Pusey referred to, according to Herberg, may be current in the East, but they were born in the West. Karl Marx was no Oriental; neither was Adolph Hitler.

The unpleasant fact, Herberg added, is that modern totalitarianism is a Western phenomenon which has taken root in the East. It is not without meaning that the aggressive secularists and forthright materialists of the Orient today in many cases got their intellectual formation in American Universities."

If American Universities can be blamed in any way for the decline of the importance of religion in other parts of the world, it is certainly a responsibility of American Universities to lead the present-day trend toward religious intervention in intellectual thought.

Intellectual religious thought does not emerge from the grade-school concept of God, for many of the roots of wisdom may be found in the realm of the intangible and within the scope of religion.

The University without a mature attitude toward sophisticated religion may house all the branches of knowledge but none of the roots. That must not be.

—Jackie Hudgins

## Gazette . . .

- Today
- ROBOTY CLUB, noon, 202 Buckhout
- BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 209 Agriculture
- CHIMES, 4 p.m., Simmons (Walnut Lounge)
- DAILY COLLEGIAN BUSINESS STAFF SENIOR BOARD, 6:45 p.m., 111 Carnegie
- DAIRY SCIENCE CLUB, 7 p.m., 117 Dairy
- FUTURE TEACHERS OF AMERICA, 7 p.m., 217 Willard
- HILLEL CHOR, 7 p.m., 224 Locust Lane
- NEWMAN CLUB ROSARY, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
- POULTRY CLUB, 7 p.m., Home Economics Living Center
- PSYCHOLOGY CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Psychology Laboratory
- Tomorrow
- HILLEL SABBATH EVE SERVICES, 8 p.m., Hillel Foundation
- PERSHING RIFLES PLEDGE PRACTICE, 6 a.m., in front of Old Main
- University Hospital
- Barbara Albeck, Will Brown, Charles DiRocco, James Donahue, Ned Finkbeiner, John Gerner, Carol Grannis, Phillip Howes, Margaret Nichols, Paul North, Anthony Petullo, John Ritchey, Maurice Schleicher, Michael Sikorski, Joyce Simpson, James Swartzwelder, and Harold Walz.

## Centennial Cachet Sales Reach 1400

Approximately 1400 Centennial cachets have been sold, according to Robert Krakoff, member of the University Student Centennial Committee.

The cachets bear the University's seal, the tower of Old Main, and a few lines about the University. Envelopes will remain on sale at the Hetzel Union desk until the present supply has been sold. They are sold in groups of three for 5 cents.

## Elections Committee to Meet

Elections committee will meet at 7 tonight in 9 Carnegie.

## Chimes to Sell 'Suckers'

"Lick the Navy" suckers will be sold at the Navy-Penn State football game Homecoming weekend by members of Chimes, junior women's hat society.

Proceeds from the project will be put into a scholarship fund, national project of the society. Hatwomen with the suckers will circulate through the stands during the game.

## Quben Contest Entries

Entries in the Centennial Homecoming Queen Contest may pick up their pictures beginning today at the Hetzel Union desk.

## Ed Society to Meet

The Industrial Educational Society will hold an organizational meeting at 7 tonight at Lambda Chi Alpha.

Committee appointments will be made. All industrial arts and vocational educational students may attend.

## Complimentary Tickets

Members of the cast and crew of "Take Ten," Thespian musical-comedy production, may pick up complimentary tickets today and tomorrow at the Hetzel Union desk.

## Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"It's no use to try to get 'fresh' with me. I've heard about you fraternity men!"

## The Smile Offensive

# Russians Offer Advice to Canada

By WILLIAM L. RYAN

Associated Press Foreign News Analyst

A torrent of Soviet advice greeted Canada's foreign secretary, Lester B. Pearson, on his arrival yesterday in Moscow. The solicitous words of Pravda and Izvestia brought into bold relief the aims of the many-pronged Soviet diplomatic offensive.

Izvestia, the Soviet government newspaper, advised Pearson that Canada should break out of her deficit trade with the United States and start taking advantage of the markets offered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Red China and the rest of the Communist bloc.

Pravda told the visitor Canada was really a neighbor of the Soviet Union and should start thinking about cutting down arms expenses and ending the cold war against Moscow.

The Moscow press casually admitted that the Kremlin regards the arrival of Pearson at this moment as most fortunate in view of the new marked improvement in east-west relations. It then told Canada that she could sell surplus wheat to Communist countries and that she has an unfavorable trade balance with the United States.

The Canadian visitor is not the first to undergo this sort of treatment in Moscow since the smile offensive began. The Communists have decided it is high time for them to take advantage of the basic weaknesses of capitalism on the economic front to win more victories on the political front.

Canadians have been treated to a taste of what the new look might amount to. The Canadian government this summer executed a couple of deals with European Communist countries to take shipments of Canada's surplus butter and wheat. Canadian business has been given to understand that this was only the beginning—that an almost limitless market awaits them.

But now, with the visit of the Foreign Secretary, the implication is that it is all up to the Canadian government and the course of its future policy. Trade requires normalization of relations with the Communist bloc—including Red China—and normalization requires an end to the cold war. In order to end the cold war, Canada is given to understand, she must break away from the lead of the United States.

If the Soviet Union sees signs of irritation between the United States and its closest ally, it obviously is going to strike while the iron is hot. This sort of think-

ing unquestionably is the very foundation of the Soviet new look, whose basic aim is to splinter the unity of the west by using every weapon and every advantage that comes to hand.

# 4 Chairmen Appointed By Council

Four committee chairmen were appointed at a Pollock Council meeting Tuesday night.

The appointees were Bruce Keeler, freshman in agricultural bio-chemistry from Bethlehem, public welfare committee; John Dennis, senior in civil engineering from Stroudsburg, projects committee; Clyde Young, junior in arts and letters from West Elizabeth, social committee; and John Rhodes, sophomore in arts and letters from Falls Church, Va., recreation committee. David Cummings, junior in business administration from Olyphant, was appointed fire marshal.

Walter Waltemeyer, council president, suggested that the constitution needed revision. He said the constitution conflicts with the new Association of Independent Men election code. The discussion was tabled.

Suggestions that candy be sold in each Pollock dormitory and that improvements be made in Pollock area roads were referred to the projects committee.

Suggestions were made to have menus posted a week in advance and to have dinner music in the Pollock dining hall. The suggestion was referred to the welfare committee.

## Tonight on WDFM

- 8:11 MEGACYCLES
- 7:16 Sign On
- 7:20 News
- 7:30 Phil Wein Show
- 7:45 UN Story
- 8:15 Just Out
- 8:30 Top Drawer
- 9:00 News
- 9:15 Scenario
- 9:30 Sign Off
- 10:30