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The Daily Collegian

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Gray Flannel: Ensignia of the Conformist

What's under that gray flannel uniform? What makes you any different from the rest of those enlisted in the ranks of collegiate conformity?

Perhaps there's very little to set you off from the brigade of button-downs. Possibly there's nothing at all.

But college has not always been the proving ground for conformity. Once upon a time the university encouraged individualism, but not any more.

Every day more and more emphasis is being placed on how the individual can learn to fit in with others in his society. If he doesn't fit in, he is maladjusted. If he is maladjusted, he waits in line to see a psychiatrist who reads a personality to him off an IBM card.

For remedy, he is advised to buy a gray flannel suit and for exercise he is encouraged to stuff it with a plaid button-down.

But more serious than this the collegiate illness doesn't end with graduation. Career men must remain collegiate men until their hair is too thin to be crew cut.

They begin to conform again—not as classroom collegiates, but as business collegiates.

They have not been prepared to be radicals in the field of business or any other field. In fact, they have been convinced that being a radical, a subversive, and an individual are all equally hazardous. So they are not radical. They conform rather than progress.

The philosopher Nietzsche wrote he was disturbed "that present mankind is not something to be standardized or thrown back into primi-

tive anonymity, but surpassed."

But according to Edgar Ansel Mowrer of the Saturday Review, present mankind is being standardized. He said: "The potential Fords and Edisons and Firestones—if they manage to pass the preposterous 'personality testers' and are hired—soon get the gate. The nonentities and yes-boys stay and are promoted. As a result we have a new class of big business directors who are less outstanding than the corporations they boss."

No wonder people are crowding psychology courses and mental illness clinics, says Mowrer, they're bored with over-standardization. This group living and group-getting-along-with has been played to the hilt.

People hiding behind their gray flannel suits are afraid to think. They shy away from decision making. Malcomb Mugeridge, editor of Punch, has been quoted as saying: "The basic fear of our time, future historians may well decide, has lain in the too ready acceptance of current orthodoxies, whether through fear of being suspected of rebelliousness and consequently punished, or just as a result of succumbing to mass persuasion."

Mass persuasion works best on the conformist, the collegiate insect, members of the herd state, for true Democracy, according to Mugeridge, requires a non-conforming citizenry.

The citizenry can dress any way it wants to, but in its self-analysis it must see beneath the gray flannel suit a mind—not just a plaid button-down.

—Jackie Hudgins

Junior Week--Weak?

Junior Week is no longer Junior Week.

It is merely a few functions sponsored by the Junior Class. Plans for the "Week," Oct. 31 to Nov. 6, include the Junior Prom, a pep rally, a motorcade for the pep rally, and recognition of juniors at church services. The talent show, formerly included in the "Week," was dispensed with this year, thus leaving the "Week" with only one major function.

Either the class should add another function such as a jam session, which would probably receive enthusiasm from members of the class, or it should relinquish its present claim to a week of activities.

The only major function as it now stands is the Junior Prom. Most people do not even realize that Junior Week, as such, exists.

If the Junior Class feels there is not enough interest in the talent show to keep it going, then it is right in dropping it from the schedule. But it should be replaced with some activity that meets the present interests of the students.

A week (?) that lasts just three days is hardly deserving of the title "Junior Week." Don't hang on to an empty title supported only by tradition.

—Sue Conklin

To Mrs. Hibbs...

The University was fortunate to have in its service an unselfish woman, the character of Mrs. Hibbs.

And we, representing the voice of the students, express our deepest sympathy at her passing even though the remembrance of her in the minds of those who knew her best is a far greater monument to her than we can build with words.

—J.H.

Gazette...

Today
COLLEGIAN CIRCULATION STAFF (all boards), 6:30 p.m., Collegian Business Office
HILLEL CULTURAL COMMITTEE, 6:30 p.m., Hillel Foundation
KAPPA PHI KAPPA, 7 p.m., 6 Burrows
MINERAL INDUSTRIES STUDENT COUNCIL, 7:30 p.m., 208 Willard
NEWMAN CLUB CHOIR PRACTICE, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
NEWMAN CLUB DAILY ROSARY, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
NOVENA, 7 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
NITTANY GROTTTO, 7:30 p.m., 121 Mineral Industries
PENN STATE PLAYERS ADVERTISING, 7 p.m., Schwab Auditorium (left)
PERSHING RIFLES CO. B-5 (active members and pledges), 7 p.m., Armory
THETA SIGMA PHI, 6:30 p.m., Grange Playroom
Tomorrow
CHIMES, 4 p.m., Simmons Walnut Lounge
NEWMAN CLUB DAILY ROSARY, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church

Dobyns Is UCA Speaker

The Rev. Lester L. Dobyns, executive director of the University Christian Association, will speak on the position of the Christian student in the University at the UCA assembly at 7 tonight in 304 Old Main.

Correction

The Future Teachers of America wiener roast will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20 in Hort Woods instead of this Thursday, as reported in yesterday's Daily Collegian. The 25 cent charge must be paid by tomorrow.

Nittany Grotto to Meet

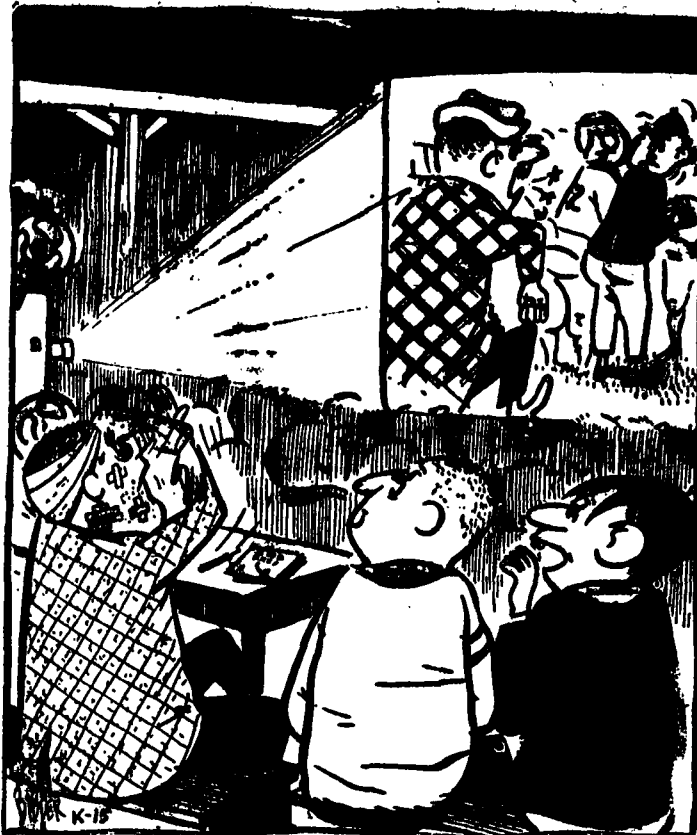
Nittany Grotto will meet at 7:30 tonight in 121 Mineral Industries.

Homecoming Queen Entries

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

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"This is when th' coach ran out on th' field for a few words with the referee."

On Russia

Diplomacy Rules Dulles' Sayings

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

John Foster Dulles has to be more diplomatic in his public pronouncements than his brother Allen or than George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor.

As Secretary of State, Foster Dulles' chief objective at this moment is to determine whether Soviet Russia's expressions of policy are to be accepted or rebuffed. He's not supposed to take chances either way, or to say anything that might endanger the least hope of peace.

As head of the Central Intelligence Agency, Allen Dulles provides much of the information on which Foster Dulles must base his judgments, and isn't supposed to say much of anything.

An important part of Meany's job is to see to it that American labor doesn't get sucked in by 'isms' which deflect it from its main goal. His organization has been active not merely in combatting Communism in the United States, but also in thwarting the plans of the World Federation of Trade Unions, a Moscow-sponsored organization whose only purpose is to enlist labor all over the world in the Red Revolution, the success of which would condemn all labor organizations to the impotency and "collaborationism" of those in Russia.

These three Americans have all discussed Soviet policy this week.

Foster Dulles spoke in a considerably more conservative tone than when he first returned from the Big Four conference at Geneva a few weeks ago.

The United States is making a ceaseless effort, he said in effect, to protect each and all of its own interests while studying every possibility that a more peaceful world can be worked out. There was nothing reminding in his words of "peace in our time," but doors were being kept open.

His sober approach may or may not have been influenced by his brother. A short time before Foster Dulles spoke, Allen had been saying that he had no information to indicate that Russia was backing down on the cold war. The subversive campaign of International Communism goes forward as usual, he said. Foster recognized the possibility that Russian peaceful emanations were merely a part of the old familiar Communist tactic of "zig zag."

Speaking from the same American Legion platform after the Secretary, Meany was more specific about the blacks and whites, especially blacks, of the situation. He was under no compulsion to keep any doors open. Nothing has happened, he said,

to indicate any change in Russian plans for world domination. That's why, he said, the Federation of Labor has "flatly turned down all propositions of exchanging delegations with the Communist countries."

The nature of the different duties of the three men must be taken into consideration in considering their words.

MI Council Sets Meeting Tonight

Mineral Industries Student Council will meet at 7:30 tonight in 208 Willard, according to Edwin Tocker, council president.

Included in the program will be a discussion on forming a student Mineral Industries news letter, and plans for holding coffee hours for freshmen in Mineral Industries.

A committee will bring up a resolution to purchase a bronze plaque naming the winners of the Ellen Steidle Award for scholastic achievements and extra curricular activities. The plaque would be placed in the Mineral Industries Building.

St. John's EUB Church To Hold Student Banquet

St. John's Evangelical United Brethren Church will sponsor a student fellowship banquet at 5 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Following the dinner, a panel discussion entitled "I Look at Philosophy" will be held. The group will also participate in a union service at the Faith Evangelical and Reformed Church.

TIM to Meet Tonight

Town Independent Men will meet at 7:30 tonight in 216 Hetzel Union.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES
7:16 ----- Sign On
7:20 ----- News
7:30 ----- Student Encampment
8:00 ----- Behind the Lectern
8:30 ----- Phi Mu Alpha
9:00 ----- Call Card
9:15 ----- News
9:30 ----- Music You Want
10:30 ----- Sign Off