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The Daily Collegian

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MIKE MILLER, Acting Editor ROGER VOGELSINGER, Acting Business Manager

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night Editor: Ed Dubbs; Copy Editors: Mike Moyle, Marnie Schenck; Assistants: Anne Friedberg, Elaine Huberman, George French, Ford Minsked. Ad Staff: Sue Brown, Jackie Schenberg.

Too Independent to Dance?

Not long ago a few of our readers were concerned with the quality of social dancing at the University; now the issue seems to lie with the type and quantity of dances.

It was recently reported that there are too many Association of Independent Men sponsored dances—that is, in relation to the dance attendance, according to the social chairman, Harold Dean.

His suggestion was to have more social events and dances. In a meeting of the Board of Governors Wednesday night, Mr. Dean advised that AIM should continue to sponsor the important social events, but the living areas and the individual dormitory units should sponsor a greater portion of independent social functions.

This seems to mean several dormitory unit dances should take the place of one big AIM dance—for the purpose of encouraging better attendance. In the opinion of Mr. Dean, social functions would enjoy greater success if they were held at the level of the dormitory unit because a student would be more inclined to attend a dance sponsored by his own dormitory than a dance sponsored by AIM.

Before elaborating on the problem and Mr. Dean's suggested solution, we should list what we think are the main reasons students attend dances—not necessarily in the order of their importance.

1. Because they like the orchestra.
2. Because some women feel their social rating fluctuates as do their "Big Weekend" bids.
3. Because they just like to dance.
4. Because they feel obligated to attend.
5. Because they will be fined if they do not attend—in the case of some fraternity and sorority dances.

Mr. Dean's suggestion in essence—to vary the sponsorship which would seem to necessitate an increase in the actual number of dances

held—does not seem to us to solve the problem.

In our list of reasons we can see but one advantage a living unit dance would have over the usual association dance. And that it would stimulate a feeling of obligation in, say, dorm 10 residents to make an appearance. For if no one in dorm 10 attended the dance sponsored solely by dorm 10, what would the general student body think of dances in general sponsored by dorm 10—moreover, what would people in general think of residents of dorm 10?

Social obligation to independent affairs has never had a very great unifying influence, and we feel even this obligation would fail to get the independents to go to unit dances.

The sponsoring group has very little to do with dance attendance. For instance, do more juniors go to the Junior Prom than other class members? Or do any students refuse to attend the Junior Prom because they don't like juniors?

Which brings us around to the core of the problem, should there be AIM dances, regardless of the level of sponsorship and relative size of the event.

If the main problem is to get the people to attend these disputed AIM dances, should not the Board of Governors, or in particular the social committee, determine the need or desirability of having dances at all.

The reason for having dances should be analyzed. If it is mainly to entertain the independent, and he turns down the opportunity to be entertained, the Board of Governors should not trouble itself with the apathy.

If it is to gain publicity for AIM, it is a waste of money.

If it is to make money, another field of endeavor should be looked into.

If it is to spend money, no one should complain.

—Jackie Hudgins

Safety Valve...

'Childish Politics'

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words on the present political conditions at Penn State, especially those concerning Campus party.

As you know I was one of the co-founders of Campus party. Along with a few people I worked very hard to build what I thought would be a good political party at Penn State, which was and still is very much needed. Now, much to my sorrow, I feel that I was only responsible for creating another "monster-like" organization which seems to thrive in all the dirt and unmanly characteristics of "old-day" political parties.

If this is the case I apologize to the student body. But I feel that there is still hope. May I suggest that those who plan to attend Sunday's meeting for the purpose of electing new officers try to cloak themselves in the air that

surrounded the people at the final meeting of the Campus Party last spring.

Try to get above the childish politics that were so apparent at the last meeting and think of student government and what would be best for its success. On your actions rests much of the reputation of Penn State and its student government.

—Jack McMeekin

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. McMeekin was clique chairman of the Campus party last spring.

Too Old to Learn?

TOTHE EDITOR: A fair criterion for a rule is its constructiveness. As far as I can see, nothing constructive has resulted from the compulsory dress rule in the Nittany-Pollock area. In general, the age level in the East area is beyond the age of easy indoctrination.

—Paul Christopher

Gazette...

Sunday
 ALPHA DELTA SIGMA INITIATION DINNER, 6:15 p.m., State College Hotel
 CAMPUS PARTY CLIQUE MEETING, 7 p.m., 10 Sparks
 HILLEL FOLK DANCE GROUP, 2 p.m., Hillel
 HILLEL FRESHMAN MIXER, 2 p.m., Hillel
 PLAY TRYOUTS (The Innocents?), 7:15 p.m., little Theater, basement of Old Main

University Hospital
 Joseph Beres, James Bizack, Richard Doherty, Francis English, William Frantz, Judith Gropper, Lenore Hamilton, Joan McDonald, Jean McGeary, Katherine Oswald, Theodore Paletta, Roger Richards, William Schweikart, Walter Shanks, Faver Snyder, William Thomas, Robert Merrell, and Rachel Milligan.

Mid-East Tinderbox Plays Into Reds' Hands

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

The United States faces a grave dilemma in the Middle East, and many regard the problem as the natural result of American overemphasis on Maginot line thinking.

The United States, such observers argue, for a long time was obsessed with the idea of forming a Middle East Defense Organization embracing the whole area. This not only handed effective propaganda ammunition to the Russians, but it also caused aggravations within the Western camp itself.

It was easy for Soviet propaganda to identify the idea of MEDO with colonialism, with a threat to the sovereignty of nations in an area newly emerging from colonial status. The Russians pictured MEDO as a device to expand Western control of the area's natural resources, chiefly its oil. It also pictured the attempt to build a military alliance as an invitation to war on the soil of the Middle East.

Many in France had serious misgivings about MEDO. These

French feared it would undermine the traditionally privileged position of France in Syria and Lebanon. Thus in Syria there grew up an alliance between pro-French elements and Syrian leftists against American policy in the Middle East. The coalition was so powerful for a time that it held the fate of the government in its hands.

The only reason for such power, which was out of proportion to the numerical strength of the coalition, was the apparent need of the pro-French elements for allies to stand off pro-British and pro-American elements. Gains were made in the long run by pro-Soviet elements.

The Israeli attack on Syrian military positions near the sea of Galilee did little to help the United States out of its dilemma, but it went far to strengthen French sympathies for Syria. The attack may have damaged Israel herself, since it raised fear in London and Washington over prospects for peace if Israel were to acquire additional arms.

The United States dilemma is the heart of the Middle East problem: How to restore the

military balance and yet avoid an arms race that surely would lead to a big "little war."

If the United States met Israeli requests for the sale of arms to offset Egyptian acquisition of Communist weapons, there was no guarantee the Israelis would restrain themselves from launching preventive attacks before the Arabs got too strong. The Galilee attack increased such fears.

But if the United States does not give arms to Israel, there is no guarantee, either, that the Arabs will not attack in concert when they are trained and ready with their new Communist arms.

The Soviet Union has no such problem. The arms go to Egypt, the Russians claim, in a purely business deal having nothing to do with politics. The Russians contend this proves they are without sin and the West is the devil. The Arabs, so long as they are on the receiving side of the arms argument, go along with this reasoning.

Once again, the lesson is driven home to the West that Maginot lines are no defense against the determined political attack that overleaps them.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"I wish he could be like other profs an' just laugh at the wrong answers."

—the cobbler's bench

On Shopping

By DON SHOEMAKER

The Christmas buying rush has been underway for some weeks now. But with only seven more shopping days left until Dec. 25, stores are staging a last-minute burst of salesmanship.

Take the other day for instance. I dropped into one of the local druggeries with no other purpose in mind than to

buy a can of shaving cream (the kind that fizzes when you press a button).

Now in the old days, a drug store was just that—a place where you went to buy pills, toilet articles, and the like. But no more: this is the age of super-markets and one-stop shopping centers. The old time pharmacy, with its bottles of colored water in the windows and the romance that went with it, is past.

So after pushing my way past the toy counter, the camera counter, the home appliance counter and encountering crowds of people, I finally found the shaving soap—stacked on an inconspicuous counter to the rear.

"A can of shaving soap, please," I said to the clerk. "With menthol added?" she asked.

"No," I replied. "But the menthol makes your face feel cooler," she protested.

"No," I replied firmly, before my will-power had a chance to the temptation.

Reluctantly, she put my purchase in a bag and handed it to me. For a moment, I thought I had won. But the young lady was not easily discouraged.

As I turned to go, she called: "I'm sure you must need some razor blades!"

"Uh-uh," I mumbled, "two boxes at home."

"Well, how about a new razor," she wanted to know, pulling a new super dooper automatic safety razor from the showcase.

"No thanks, already have two," I said.

For a moment, she was discouraged. Then the inspiration—the pitch:

"Razors make a good Christmas gift," she said, "how about one for your father?"

"We're modern at home—use electric razors—have several," I mumbled incoherently.

Before she had a chance to re-mobilize the attack, I beat a hasty retreat. I figured I was safe.

But I made a mistake.

On my way out, I stopped to buy a pack of cigarettes. Now this in itself was harmless enough, but it happened that the vitamin counter was next to the tobacco counter.

The clerk gave me my cigarettes but while she was reaching for my change, she noticed a large bottle of vitamins on the

opposite counter. Again, the gleam.

"Say," she commented, "you look kind of run down. How about a bottle of these vitamins so you can be in shape for the holidays?" Special today: only \$3.50 for 100... say, are you sure you're not sick?"

"No, just a student... always look this way," I replied. Once again, I headed for the door.

I was just about to leave. But this time it was my turn to have an inspiration. I headed back to the razor counter.

The clerk spotted me. "I knew you'd reconsider," she said confidently, "you want the new super-dooper automatic razor?"

"No thanks," I replied, "how about one of those electric models?"

Her eyes gleamed. This was more than she had bargained for. Instead of selling just safety razors, she could really make a killing on the electric model.

But I was the real winner. Never again would I have to suffer the ordeal of buying another can of shaving soap.

McKee Hall to Hold Yule 'Going-away' Party

McKee Hall Unit III, second floor, will hold a "Christmas Going-away" party from 2 to 4:30 p.m. today in the McKee recreation room.

Girls from first and second floor Thompson Hall have been invited. Refreshments will be served and prizes awarded to the winners of novelty dances.

This Weekend On WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

7:15	-----	Sign On
7:20	-----	News and Sports
7:30	-----	Musical Marathon
8:00	-----	Hubsapoppin
9:00	-----	Hi Fi Open House
10:35	-----	Sign Off

Tomorrow		
7:15	-----	Sign On
7:20	-----	News and Sports
7:30	-----	Third Program
10:35	-----	Sign Off

Monday		
7:15	-----	Sign On
7:20	-----	News and Sports
7:30	-----	Musical Marathon
8:15	-----	As You Believe
9:30	-----	Showcase
9:00	-----	Man on the Wall
9:15	-----	News
9:30	-----	Symphonic Notebook
10:30	-----	Sign Off