

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper.

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

Editorials represent the viewpoints of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the paper, the student body, or the University.

Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

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Penn State Just Isn't Good Ol' Siwash

Usually when a freshman comes to college, he carries in his mind a picture of grand ol' Siwash which has long since faded. The image lives today only on the pages of the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald and a clan of contemporary writers whose memories date back to Fitzgerald's era.

Going to college today is serious business and the old college traditions, for the most part, are no longer with us. Maybe this is sad. Maybe it isn't.

But it is a fact and it's one that hasn't caught up yet with the members of the Freshmen Customs Regulation Board and with most members of All-University Cabinet.

For they sat solemnly last week and planned next year's customs program. Debate centered on whether the end of customs should come at an announced time or should be kept a surprise. Cabinet couldn't decide, so the customs board was handed the vital question: When should customs end?

We think customs should end right away. This "old State tradition" came back to Penn State in 1950 after bowing out in 1944. Customs returned on trial: student government, which thought customs would be nice to have, gave it a whirl. But never—not in 1950 and not in 1955—did customs succeed. This fall's program was perhaps the worst of the lot, yet, if students actually wanted customs it should have been the best. Every undergraduate class at Penn State had gone through customs. This, of course, was not true during the first trial years.

If the purpose of customs is to promote Penn State spirit and to unite the freshman class, then customs missed its mark. The class of 1959 is not united. It has no more or less class spirit than previous classes.

If the purpose of customs is to give upperclassmen an opportunity to harass freshmen, then customs has failed. Upperclassmen's prac-

tice of ignoring customs a few days after they start is as old a custom at Penn State as customs themselves.

Customs were created by student government on the assumption that students wanted it. The assumption was obviously wrong. How much longer are we to perpetuate this error of judgment?

The freshmen, too, don't want customs. We doubt if they want them now for the class of 1960. This fall, there was ample evidence that they didn't want them for themselves.

Who then wants customs? To find out, we suggest that the Freshmen Customs Regulation Board poll the present freshman class, asking two questions: Would you prefer to see customs continued or dropped? If customs are continued, will you enforce the program next fall?

If more than 50 per cent of the answers are negative, we suggest that the entire customs program be junked for a year.

Then, with the class of 1960 not going through customs, Penn State could more realistically evaluate the program's worth. If there is a loud demand on campus—this time from the students not from student government—for the return of customs, the program could be restored. It would meet with renewed vigor, in that case, and would more likely be a success than the past adventures with dinks.

When freshmen come to college, they expect a spirited experience. When they come to Penn State, they don't get it. What they get is disillusionment. This is so because the customs program, which must be administered by upperclassmen, flops. If Penn State wants freshmen with spirit, it better adopt a spirit-building program which doesn't involve the participation of unspirited upperclassmen. Customs isn't that program.

Customs customarily do nothing for the freshmen. Nothing at all would be better.

—The Editor

Does It Happen Here?

The race relations problem at Penn State is not a new one. Yet constructive action and attitudes toward solving the problem seem to be still in the primitive stages on the campus.

Discrimination against Negro and foreign students in the matter of housing is widespread downtown. Racial prejudice manifests itself in a hundred different ways on campus. Even the administration has been charged with apathy and failure to take measures to correct the problem where the administration can correct it.

Three University professors—a political scientist, a sociologist, and a geochemist—will attempt to resolve the question "Tuscaloosa at Penn State—To What Extent Does It Happen Here?" at 7 tonight in the Hetzel Union assembly hall.

This discussion and the questions from students which will follow it are admittedly not the whole answer: actions speak louder than words.

But if the student body and townspeople are presented with the facts of the case—what Penn State's situation really is, and where the responsibility lies—we feel they will then be prepared to take the individual and group action necessary toward the lessening of the racial discrimination problem.

It is a beginning. And it is to each student's advantage to begin assuming his responsibility.

—Bob Franklin

IFC's Sugar-Coated Pill

TO THE EDITOR: Robert Bullock in Tuesday's Daily Collegian, nearly managed to force a great big candy-coated pill of propaganda down the public's throat! Who do they think they are kidding—the Student Body, the Administration, or Tom Clark's mom and dad?

What Bullock terms as the "mature intellectual reasoning of the persons who handled the preparations of the code," seems from all outward appearances to be a sharp political trick calculated to get front page headlines, and a last page death notice after the next meeting of the IFC.

It is indeed unfortunate that no-one in the administration is willing to step on some fraternity toes, and take positive action in such a demanding situation.

● Letter Cut

—Ray Paulick

Safety Valve

No Room for Protest?

TO THE EDITOR: The election laws, as they have been set up by All-University Cabinet and enforced by the Elections Committee, assure the continuance of a system of student government which few students can show any preference for. By refusing any form of write-in ballot, the persons who formulated the elections code have denied the student body their most effective form of spontaneous protest.

Nowhere in the United States is the write-in ballot denied to any voter, in fact, one of our United States Senators was elected by this method in protest to the choice of the dominant political machine in his state. The persons who formed the Apathy party felt that the only real improvement that could be made in student government could be brought about only through a complete discrediting of the existing political party system on campus. We put a plague on both party houses.

A lot of people attacked us for our method of achieving our purpose, namely satire. Once again, we felt satire was our most effective weapon without resorting to outright ridicule and slander. The very name, Apathy Party, was a satire on the disinterestedness of most students toward student government. The only real way to combat apathy on this campus is through the encouragement of spontaneous action on the part of the average student. The present political system has only suppressed spontaneity, not encouraged it in the average student.

Why were we denied our right to effective protest?

—Byron Fielding

Gazette

Today
AIR FORCE ROTC DRILL TEAM, 7 p.m., Armory
CHIMES, 4 p.m., Simmons Lounge
DAILY COLLEGIAN Senior Board Business Staff, 6:45 p.m., 111 Carnegie
FUTURE TEACHERS OF AMERICA, 7 p.m., 217 Willard
NEWMAN CLUB TV Party, 8 p.m., Student Center
NEWMAN CLUB Discussion, 7:30 p.m., 304 Old Main
NEWS AND VIEWS Staff and Candidates, 6:45 p.m., 14 Home Economics
PSYCHOLOGY CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 103 Willard University Hospital
James Crouse, William Fox, Sanford Lichtenstein, Joseph Popadics, Gerald Reed, Nathan Russo, Walter Schwenger, Samuel Valentine, Paul Weaver, James Jamison, and Alice Hickerson.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Oh when will IFC come through with that hazing rule?"

In Civic Center Debate

Washington Called Ballet City

By Arthur Edson

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, March 20 (AP)—The nation's capital was warmly defended today as a place where culture can lift her pretty head, and where chloroform isn't needed to get customers into a ballet. "Washington," promoter Israel Feld said, "is one of the best ballet cities in the country."

This comes as a surprise to some of us, including Rep. Michael Joseph Kirwan (D. of Youngstown, Ohio), who doesn't keep too well informed on news from the cultural front.

Kirwan began the debate during a hearing on a proposed national civic center. Part of the plan calls for an opera house, designed for good music and good dancing.

Kirwan couldn't see the need for such a building.

"You have to chloroform them to get 500 to look at a ballet," Kirwan said. "Don't let anybody kid you on that score. It takes a lot of good courage to sit and watch somebody go into a toe dance."

"He's wrong there, my friend," said Feld, who fetches in everything from Louis Armstrong and his Dixieland All-Stars to the Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo. "We have had fabulous crowds for ballet."

The Feld promotions include summer shows in a 4056-seat amphitheater. Last summer the Canadian National Ballet was here for 14 performances.

"We had an 80 per cent sell-out," Feld said. "On many nights, we were turning them away."

Patrick Hayes, who brought in the famed Sadler's Wells Ballet from England, had a similar story. Five performances in a 3426-seat theater. Every seat sold. Choice seats grabbed up at \$6. And, so far as Hayes knows, little or no chloroform was used.

"Ballet is good business all over the country now," Hayes said. "Not just in the big cities either. It's going over big in one-night stands."

Rep. Carroll Kearns (R. of Farrell, Pa.), a onetime rail-

roader who became a concert singer, possibly is one of Congresses' most loyal supporters of the arts. What did he think of Kirwan and ballet?

"Did Mike Kirwan really say that?" Kearns asked. "What a delightful fellow he is. You know, we'll get him a front row seat at a good ballet. He would love it."

Kirwan, by the way, put in a plug for another form of entertainment.

"I am like Oliver Wendell Holmes," Kirwan said. "He said, 'give me burlesque.' He went to them until he was 90."

Hayes said Holmes liked burlesque all right, but that the old boy also was fond of opera.

"It's interesting to note," Hayes said, "that ballet is doing nicely in this town. It has been years, though, since we've had a theater showing live burlesque."

Democrats to Meet

The Young Democratic Club will meet at 7 tonight in 217 Hetzel Union. A discussion of the issues of the 1956 campaign will be held.

Collegian Business Staff

The Daily Collegian business staff senior board will meet at 6:45 tonight in 111 Carnegie.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
7:15	Sign On
7:20	News
7:25	Sports
7:30	Starlight Review
8:00	Jazz Club
8:30	Just Out
9:00	Man on the Mall
9:15	News Roundup
9:30	Scenario
10:30	Sign Off

VOTE!
TODAY
8-5
IN THE HUB
IT'S YOUR DUTY—
MATIC CARDS NEEDED

Attention... all organizations
Scrolls sold dozens of
cookies by using Classifieds
Collegians can make YOUR
sales successful, too

Busy Weekend?
Take Time Out
for a quick snack
at the Dell

Hamburger	20c
Hot Dog	15c
Tuna Fish	25c
Ham and Cheese	40c
Kosher Corned Beef	35c

NITTANY DELL
Home of Delicious Sandwiches
Across from Simmons Hall