

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. 1867

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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## TV Courses: Free the Uncaptured Captives

At least some students—who were only able to grumble about it—will be able to talk back to television.

This is welcome news for the growing number of students who each semester find themselves staring at a television receiver rather than a professor. They are the students who are being exposed to the University's project in television for teaching, sponsored by the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education.

The installation of talk-back microphones in two classrooms in Sparks, allowing students to ask questions verbally to their instructors, will eliminate one of the chief and most frequent student complaints about the TV scheme.

But it won't stop all the griping. As noted in a 102-page report on the first project, "An Investigation of Closed-Circuit Television for Teaching University Courses," issued last summer, some students are totally unhappy with getting even a fraction of their education via the flickering screen. One reaction quoted in the report: "This is a crime."

But reactions taken from students after one semester of TV teaching show that most of them don't care, one way or another, about it. A few are enthusiastic; a few damn the entire project.

Critical students often fail to realize that the television project is research in a new field, research made necessary by a desperate need in the Commonwealth for more college facilities and faculties.

But the University must remember that subjecting students to television against their wills is unfair as long as TV-in-the-classroom remains an experiment, not a proved and adopted practice.

The report, in a footnote, glibly states: "Students accept many educational practices, e.g., term papers, examinations, required class attendance, towards which they may not have 'favorable attitudes'."

This is hardly a defense of compulsory TV viewing, "1984" style. Students coming to college know they are going to have to take tests and go to classes. They do not know they will be taught by a screen.

And students who object to television should not be required to become involuntary participants in a research project. Nor should it be made difficult for them to avoid television.

If the University finds that it must adopt television as a regular part of its program—an ultimately regrettable but coming decision, we feel—students should be told of this when they apply for admittance. But until then, they should not be subjected to it against their desires.

This, of course, means that the television researchers will not get a perfect cross-section

of the student body in TV classes. But that is no unusual problem facing social researchers; it is one which must be contended with almost always.

To make it possible for students who dislike TV courses to avoid them, all television sections should be clearly indicated in the timetable. This has not been done.

Required courses offered on television should be offered live, too. This has been done. But unless the students know which sections are on the screen and which are person-to-person, they have to take a chance.

Offering students the opportunity to switch sections after they find themselves in a classroom-without-a-professor is not enough. Sometimes it is inconvenient, sometimes impossible for students to reshuffle their schedules to avoid TV. Nor is telling students at registration, when it is too late to conveniently rebuild schedules, enough.

Exposing students to TV against their wishes is an unfortunate practice, too, in that students who don't like it are less likely to do well in TV classes. This was understood in the report where it points out: "The absence of distraction" which some students called a virtue other nominated as a vice, saying that the limited center of attention, the television screen, induced boredom and sleep. Their inability to participate in class discussion was also thought to foster boredom."

Other faults listed by students who had taken TV courses were: the lack of interaction between instructors and students; the lack of color; and the fact that the cameraman decided for the student-viewer how long he would watch the blackboard and when his gaze would shift.

These are serious shortcomings of the television project and should be recognized as such. They are made more serious when the student doesn't like TV learning in the first place.

We realize the project is still in its elementary stages. But this argument hardly convinces the students who view television with displeasure and who find themselves in one, two, or three sections of it.

Perhaps the answer is to offer a wider variety of courses via television so that the chance of a student finding himself in more than one TV section is lessened. This would also have the effect, favorable to research, of putting a truer cross-section of students behind the flickering screen.

Television may become necessary, but we doubt if it will ever become a completely satisfactory substitute for face-to-face learning. As long as it remains an experiment, it should not be forced on students who want no part of it. —The Editor

## Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"And on the Psych. 17 blue book no extra credit will be given for practical experience, Worthall!"

## UN Police Action . . .

# To Calm Situation In Middle East?

By J. M. Roberts

Associated Press News Analyst

The possibility that the United Nations will organize another police action in the Middle East—a contingency which seems for the moment to be the principle base for consideration of use of American troops there—is very remote at this time.

Nobody, and least of all the non-involved nations in the area, such as Greece, Turkey and Italy, wants to get involved in another Korea.

If force is required to keep the Israelis and the Arabs from lighting a fuse which could lead to world war, the odds are very great it will have to be Anglo-American force. France would throw in political weight which, because of her involvement in subduing African rebels, she would not have the men to back up.

But this idea of bilateral action by the United States and Britain has been very carefully skirted by President Eisenhower's policy statement Monday and apparently, also, by Secretary Dulles in his briefing of congressional leaders Tuesday.

Indeed, the effect if not the intent of the President's statement seems to be more in the nature of a reassurance to the British of partnership than a notice to the disturbers of the peace that war will not be tolerated.

It does sound, however, like a promise of firmer policy in the future if the parties to the dispute pay no heed to the representations of Secretary General Hammarskjold of the UN and others who are bringing pressure for reinstatement of the 1949 truce.

That's something Britain has desperately wanted.

But in addition to their commitments to the UN, if the UN were disposed to act, Britain, France and the United States have a commitment, a corollary of the UN truce, to guarantee the borders between the Jews and the Arabs.

The borders imposed by Israeli military force at the close of the 1948 war, however, rather than by UN action, have never been accepted by the Arabs, and this whole business has remained up in the air.

Events in the Middle East are moving so fast that the "maybes" of American policy today may become the urgencies of tomorrow. That is obvious from the briefing given the congressional leaders by Dulles. Through this, the nation is informed that the situation is fluid and moving toward a possible climax. There may be time for Congress and public to figure out what to do with the ball if they have to carry it. The President's statement serves as a sort of first step toward that.

## Violin-Piano Duo To Appear Tonight In Schwab Concert

A violin-piano concert will be presented by James de la Fuente and Herbert Stessen at 8:30 tonight in Schwab Auditorium.

The violinist, de la Fuente studied at the Juilliard School of Music with the late Albert Spalding, and held a six-year fellowship for graduate work there. His violin, a Montagnana dated 1723, was willed to him by Spalding.

Stessen, a native of New York, is a graduate of City College of New York. He studied with the noted concert pianist, Sascha Gornodnitzki, and in 1950 made his debut in New York's Carnegie Hall.

The concert, sponsored by the State College Community Concert Association, is the third of the series for this season. Elena Nikolaidi, contralto, originally scheduled for a concert Feb. 29, will close the season with a concert April 23.

## Graduates to Sign For Caps, Gowns

Seniors and graduate students, who expect to graduate in June, should sign up for caps and gowns at the Athletic Store.

Seniors in education may sign up today. Seniors in engineering are to sign up tomorrow, Friday, and Saturday.

Seniors must give their hat size when ordering the cap, and make a deposit of \$5 on the cap and gown. The cap, gown, and hood for graduate students requires a \$10 deposit.

Invitations and announcements may be ordered at the Hetzel Union desk on the day students sign up.

## Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
7:15	Sign On
7:20	News
7:25	Sports
7:30	Marquee Memories
8:00	Open to Question
8:30	Music of the People
9:00	BBC Weekly
9:15	News
9:30	Virtuosos
10:30	Sign Off

## III. Culture's Status: But What Can Be Done?

This is the third in a series of editorials on the status of culture at the University.

Now that we have given reasons why people believe the cultural level at the University is getting lower and explained, according to findings of our study, why this is an erroneous belief we think the next step should be to formulate some sort of pattern to broaden the scope of intellectual activities and enlarge the participation in them.

The first thing the University is expected to do is to introduce students to culture. Because Penn State cannot afford to be very selective in its enrollment acceptances it must prepare itself to meet the incoming student on his own level of pre-established aesthetic understanding. The student who starts his college education never having heard a symphony orchestra concert or never having seen a 'good' art exhibit does not always enjoy his first encounter with them. He must be taught to appreciate them. This the University has accomplished by requiring an art and a music appreciation course for some undergraduates. To expand this type of general culture introduction, drama appreciation, similar to the Dramatics 61 course, might be made compulsory.

Since it is important that the technical student especially be exposed to these cultural subjects in as pleasing way as possible we certainly suggest that the utmost care be taken in organizing these introductory-offer courses. For instance, if the intent of the course is to make a student take an initial interest in philosophy, laborious accounts of Aristotles' subtle arguments with the other Greeks will do little to arouse the second semester chem eng major. Contemporary philosophy, which everyone is aware of even though he doesn't think of it as such, would seem to be a much more appropriate starting point. Everyone knows something about religion and even the most

literary have some inkling of scientific concepts, so it seems more plausible to use this sharp ground breaker in the field of philosophy than the contrastly dull obscurities the ancients dwell upon.

We still can't understand why the administration turned down student requests channeled through All-University Cabinet last year to schedule a series of big-name personalities in Rec Hall. With only 50 cents per semester per student at least four well-known people could be brought here for students to go to see without having to worry about the expense of a ticket.

Even more prominent people than the fading Community Concert Series is able to get would certainly be available with such large sums of money.

—Jackie Hudgins

## Gazette

Today

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, 7 p.m., Atherton Lounge

DAILY COLLEGIAN Circulation Staff Junior and Intermediate Board, 6:30 p.m., Collegian Office

MARKETING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Phi Kappa Psi

NEWMAN CLUB Choir Practice, 7 p.m., Church

RIDING CLUB, 7 p.m., 217 Willard

SIGMA TAU Pledge Meeting, 7 p.m., 209 Main Engineering

WORLD AGRICULTURAL SERVICE SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., 209 Hetzel Union

WDFM Music Library Staff Candidates, 7 p.m., 307 Sparks Student Employment

HULETT'S ON THE LAKE GEORGE, New York—April 14

CRADLE BEACH CAMP, New York—April 14

CAMP CONRAD WEISER, Pennsylvania—April 18-19

TRAIL BLAZER CAMPS, New Jersey—April 21

University Hospital

Harold Albrecht, Jean Bodman, Robert Bohning, Ralph Brower, George Carrick, Louise Chaplinsky, Mary Clair, George Dishong, Eleanor Duffan, Frederick Greenleaf, Morton Kaplan, Charles Larson, Andrew Maretzki, Robert Moyer, Mary Murphy, David Patterson Phyllis Rubenstein, James Sahlin, James Strucher, Frank Woodrow, and Roy Vollmer.

### Sigma Tau Pledges

Sigma Tau, engineering honor society, will have a pledge meeting at 7 tonight in 209 Main Engineering.

### Supreme Court Will Meet

The Supreme Court will meet at 8 tonight in the Board Room in Old Main.

### Players to Hold Shop For Advertising Crew

Students interested in working on the advertising crew for "An Inspector Calls," the last Player's show for the season which will be presented May 10, 11, and 12 in Schwab Auditorium, should attend a workshop at 7 p.m. today or tomorrow in the Schwab loft.

### Ag Ec Club Will Meet Friday

The Agricultural Economics Club will meet at 8 p.m. Friday at Alpha Zeta fraternity. The club will hold a bowling party in Recreation Hall after the meeting.

### Marketing Club Will Meet

The Marketing Club will meet at 7:30 tonight at Phi Kappa Psi.