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The Daily Collegian

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... But All One Hears Is 'No New Taxes'

Gov. George M. Leader's higher education program is in a Senate committee and it doesn't appear it will get out in this session.

This is because Republican leaders have taken a dim view of the program, which runs contrary to their "no-new-taxes" chants and because Leader waited late in the session to introduce his program.

The program, which is to be financed by a one-cent soft drink tax, calls for a system of state scholarships, student loans and a greatly expanded system of junior colleges.

The plan has merit. It was determined after a year's study by a special commission on higher education.

Especially needed is the greatly expanded system of junior colleges. This idea is new to Pennsylvania but not to some other states such as New York and California.

Many talented young men and women graduate from high schools without the financial means to go to college and end up in jobs where their talents are wasted. Educators all over the nation have been warning against wasting the talents of today's youth. President Eric A. Walker is not withstanding.

In essence, the Leader plan would eventually bring junior colleges within commuting distances of the state's college-age population.

It is certainly more reasonable to put colleges where students can reach them easily

and daily than to keep on building expensive dormitories and dining halls in colleges far away. And by living at home, students will save money on their first two years of college.

The expansion of the system of junior colleges would certainly relieve the University. The University quite naturally feels that since it is a land-grant institution, it has to grow to meet the expected increase in college enrollment. Even now the University has to turn down many potentially good students every year.

The biggest burden to the University in this growth is in dormitories and dining halls, which are not financed by the state. The University just this year has borrowed approximately \$80 million for dormitory expansion.

The main opposition to the plan is no new story. It's going to cost money. That means new taxes. And if there's something Pennsylvanians dislike, it's taxes.

But new taxes or not, Pennsylvania must do something about meeting the growing challenge to higher education. The University has shown the foresight of trying to do all it can. But it cannot do the entire job. Neither can the private schools in the state.

Action should be forthcoming—if not this session, early next year. The "no-new-taxes" chant isn't an answer to meeting today's challenge in education.

—The Editor

Safety Valve

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters to the editor on any topic of public interest. All letters must be signed by the writer. However, on rare occasion, names will be withheld if requested. Shorter letters lend themselves best to publication. All letters are subject to condensation and editing for space and good taste.

Dress Rules Bring Complaints

Bermuda Ban

TO THE EDITOR: The WSGA regulations book for 1956-57 states that bermuda shorts and skirts above the knee may not be worn for dormitory lounge entertaining, in dining halls, in administration buildings and in classrooms—unless the class is a laboratory or field trip and the instructor permits them to be worn.

WSGA has petitioned several times to the dean of women that the rule concerning the wearing of bermuda shorts be revoked and that women students be allowed to wear bermudas on the same occasions that slacks may be worn. The Freshman Council has also petitioned to the dean but both have been turned down with a flat "NO!"

Slacks and so-called pedal pushers, short slacks which come from two to six inches below the knee, are allowed but not bermuda shorts which come about two inches above the knee, the main difference being that the knee shows in bermuda shorts.

What is so disgraceful about the feminine knee? If the administration feels that there is something disgraceful about it, why did they allow the Penn State coed to wear dresses just to their knees during World War II? Hemlines went up and there was no objection.

It was a change in style as bermuda shorts are a change. In fact, there is only one-half to one inch difference between the 1945 skirt and the bermuda skirt of today. Yet the bermuda skirt is outlawed!

All over America bermudas are worn on golf courses, yet the Penn State coed was just recently allowed to do this and is still not allowed to wear bermudas in her dormitory lounges which are the equivalent to the living room in her own home.

Even the most prominent lawyers in such cities as New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago wear bermudas on the streets and on the job. Men's tuxedos are made with bermuda shorts and many fraternities on this campus allow their members to wear bermudas to dinner when coats and ties are compulsory.

Slacks for women students are allowed in the dining halls for breakfast and lunch as well as in classes, but not bermuda shorts. Why is this? A Thompson Hall hostess stated that what the dean objects to in bermuda shorts is that the girls don't act like young ladies when they are wearing them. They become loud and

don't sit properly. Are we any louder and do we sit more improperly in bermudas than in slacks?

She also said that bermudas are just fine for sports but not for anything else, because here at Penn State we want to turn out fine, well-bred young ladies, and ladies wear shorts only for sports.

Don't Vassar, Smith and Bryn Mawr, just to name a few of the finer women's colleges in the U.S., turn out "well-bred" young ladies? They wear bermudas on practically all occasions except for formal dances, special dinners and church services. And why not? Besides being fashionable, bermudas are cool, comfortable and much easier to care for than skirts.

Yet in our so-called democratic Penn State society we must sit back and accept this rule made by the dean even though almost 100 per cent of the women students oppose it.

—Pat Mewborn

Formal Chow

TO THE EDITOR: We were most interested to learn at the meeting of the West Halls Council Monday evening that apparently the primary reason for the compulsory Sunday dress rule in the West Halls area arises from the fact that the West Halls represent the "show place of the University," in contrast to the "low-rent district," namely Nittany-Pollock, to which "you wouldn't want to take your mother."

We are amazed by the incredible delusions of superiority held by the residents of the West Halls. They feel that they are somehow under compulsion to adopt a completely unrealistic, false set of standards for the Sunday noon meal, in order to make a "nice" appearance, thereby impressing visitors.

Can visitors really be so naive as to believe that we are thus representing the true cross section of typical college life? Can we really believe this ourselves?

We are curious as to the impression received by those visitors who look beyond the superficial aspects of dress to the painful incongruities of accompanying day's growth of beard, uncombed hair, and a decidedly vulgar vocabulary.

Surely human intelligence has not sunk to such depths that it can tolerate such absurdity . . . or has it?

—David Schleicher
David Houghton

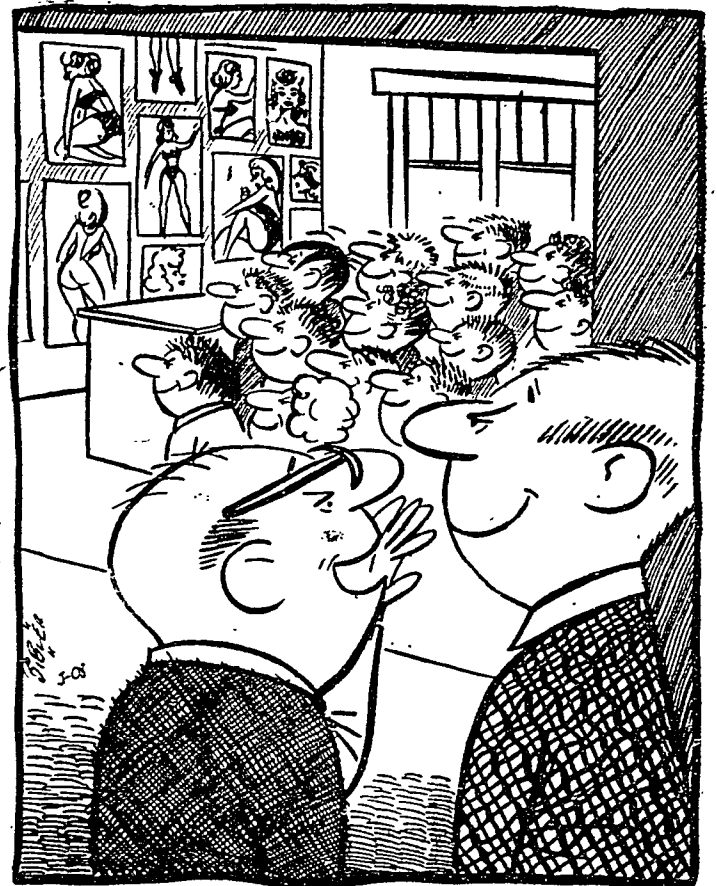
Gazette

Today
HILLEL ELECTIONS, 9 a.m. to noon
LECTURE, 7 p.m., 104 Eisenhower Chapel, Prof. Andrew W. Case
MARKETING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Phi Sigma Kappa, 501 S. Allen St.
SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY, 7 p.m., 209 Hetzel Union
SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MANAGE-

MENT, 7:30 p.m., Lambda Chi Alpha
THETA SIGMA PHI, 7 p.m., back study lounge of Simmons, speaker, Mrs. Marbut
University Hospital
Donald Abraham, Maurice Balling, Stanley Burd, John Damian, Roger Kerlin, Carl McClure, Carolyn Quarles, Whitten Richman, Ira Starer, Clemens Schoenebeck, Doris Seiler, Donald Thompson, Ellen Brantlinger.

Little Man on Campus

by Bibler



"Funny the way they go for those visual aids."

Ready Or Not



By Marian Beatty

It happens every spring at Penn State, and it's only slightly reassuring to realize that it's been happening for over 50 years.

As carloads of students begin finding their way to Whipple's and grades drop lower as suntans become darker,

the senior class, supported by a highly vocal segment of underclassmen, begins discussing a class gift.

The arguments, which began half a century ago, have usually been settled wisely and without bloodshed.

The custom of giving a gift at graduation began with the class of '04, which gave the clock in Old Main tower. For years the clock was silent and late risers slumbered undisturbed, until the class of '37 decided upon chimes as a gift.

Through the years, departing classes gave the sun dial in front of Old Main, the fountain by the Old Willow and a wireless radio station and tower, which was later condemned to the scrap heap as a lightning hazard.

For a time, the custom of planting ivy to cover campus buildings was popular. This was soon given up—perhaps because the classes began to run out of buildings to cover.

Faintly audible among shouts to support gift suggestions has always been the slightly strident, rather weary voice of the faculty, pleading with their unhappy captives to keep their minds on books and exams.

Their battle against picnics, sunbathing and social life is usually a losing one, in spite of the fact that they are reinforced with below-grades and the threat of failure to graduate.

One student, returning to history class after an especially joyous Spring Week and weekend, was faced with the dilemma of a

pop quiz on a chapter he hadn't gotten around to reading.

Rather than try to bluff, his way through, he cheerfully admitted in a quickly-composed verse his total lack of information about any history except that made during the past week. The professor's answer was equally cheerful:

An Ogden Nash
Without the cash!
But being sporty,
I'll give you a 40.

Another sign of spring is the after-Easter onslaught of topless convertibles and tiny sports cars. The sports cars scoot along the street like over-size bugs, spewing gravel as they careen around corners. In Milan, sports car drivers zoom through city streets at speeds often exceeding 100 mph while pedestrians and traffic policemen shout and applaud.

So far there has been no wild applause from State College pedestrians, but there has been some shouting.

About 20 per cent of the world's 850,000 doctors are in the United States.

Tonight on WDFM
91.1 MEGACYCLES

6:50 Sign On
6:55 News
7:00 Telephone Bandstand
7:55 Sports
8:00 Invitation to Relax
8:30 Music of the People
9:00 News
9:15 Informally Yours
9:30 Anthology
10:00 Virtuoso
11:30 News; Sign Off

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