

Editorials

Compulsory ROTC: Junk It

The Senate Committee on Education Policy has recommended that all men and women students be required to take a 2-year program in military and civil defense education.

This newspaper last spring reported that President Eric A. Walker was toying with the idea of requiring coeds to take a 2-year course in civil defense. Nothing more was heard on the idea until the Senate committee made its recommendation last Thursday.

A new ROTC-CD program is not the real issue here. The issue is whether students should be required to take ROTC and CD in any form.

The Senate committee's report said that while the University is "not under legal mandate to require two years of ROTC of all male students," the requirement should be continued.

This recommendation comes on top of heated debate on the same question among students of at least two other land-grant institutions, Wisconsin and Ohio State.

We feel that students should not be required to take ROTC and CD training in any form. However, the University must—and should—offer the program.

One of the main reasons cited for requiring ROTC for all male students is that officers are badly needed by the armed services. No one can deny that officers are badly needed. But would an elective ROTC significantly decrease the number of officers the armed services receive from Penn State? We believe not.

Maybe the services would have to do a better selling job on careers in the armed services, but students who are interested in gaining a commission from one of the services would elect ROTC anyway.

And as it stands now, not all of the men who wish to go into advanced ROTC can get in because of quotas. Also, it seems logical that the students who elect ROTC from the beginning will be more likely to continue as career officers than the ones who took ROTC because it was required and just decided to stay on "because it's better to go in as a first loonie than as a buck private."

We need school teachers, scientists and engineers as badly—if not more so—than we need military officers. But we do not require college students to enter these fields. We encourage them, but we don't require them to.

The Senate committee feels that "ROTC contributes significantly to citizenship education, and thus to general education."

Does military training really contribute to citizenship education? It teaches the way of life of the military, which must be well-regimented and well-disciplined. But it does little to teach better citizenship. And any course the students elected to take instead of ROTC could contribute to general education.

Compulsory ROTC is certainly an expense to the taxpayers which could easily be eliminated without harm to the defense of this country. Compulsory ROTC is also time-consuming. Time saved by eliminating it could be put to just as good—or better—use by students.

We feel that student councils should discuss this question and that student government should take a stand on it. The elimination of compulsory ROTC at Penn State is possible.

University and ROTC officials have admitted to us that the Department of Defense would undoubtedly approve the move if requested by the Board of Trustees. Student government can put the issue before the Trustees.

We feel that compulsory ROTC can—and should—be eliminated.

Safety Valve

Students Reject Rock 'n Roll?

TO THE EDITOR (Dad): I think that before you give a reporter an assignment, you should make sure he knows about the subject concerned, which is rock 'n roll vs. jazz.

Your reporter is as ignorant about the subject as I am about nuclear physics. If he isn't, let him present his views in an opinion about the subject and not make biased statements about rock 'n roll.

He wrote that "P.S." students reject rock 'n roll. I believe that the poll was a jazz poll—not a rock 'n roll poll. In case he isn't aware, rock 'n roll is another form of music. Some people consider it jazz, but in actuality it isn't. (Champ).

He said some rock 'n roll artists received few votes. From this he concluded that "P.S." students rejected rock 'n roll. This is ridiculous, because Jack Benny received one vote; now does this mean that "P.S." students reject his version of classical music and other classical music?

If he wants to know how "P.S." students feel about rock, look at the rock 'n roll records on the juke box in the HUB and in the music stores. Maybe rock 'n roll will save his soul.

Don't knock the Rock, cat. —(Mr.) Mark Silverstein, '61

Letter cut

Students Thanked For 'Intense Study'

TO THE EDITOR: In regard to the All-University Cabinet meeting of Nov. 1, and in particular in regard to the report of the Student Encampment Committee on Regulations, Controls and Student Welfare, I feel bound to publicly thank a clearly-defined group in attendance at said meeting for their most evident intense research into and study of my committee's report.

I was, to say the least, flattered by their recent and vast display of knowledge on the topic of student recreation facilities at the University.

Furthermore, I am certain that the University will soon express its thanks to these gentlemen for the reassurance that the report of various eastern collegiate associations was incorrect, in this group's decisive opinion.

My only regret is that these same people who appeared so well-informed on the evening of Nov. 1 did not voice their opinions at the final plenary session of Encampment when they, along with the entire Encampment body, unanimously accepted the report as it was presented.

If this had been the case, much valuable time on the part of many persons could have been saved.

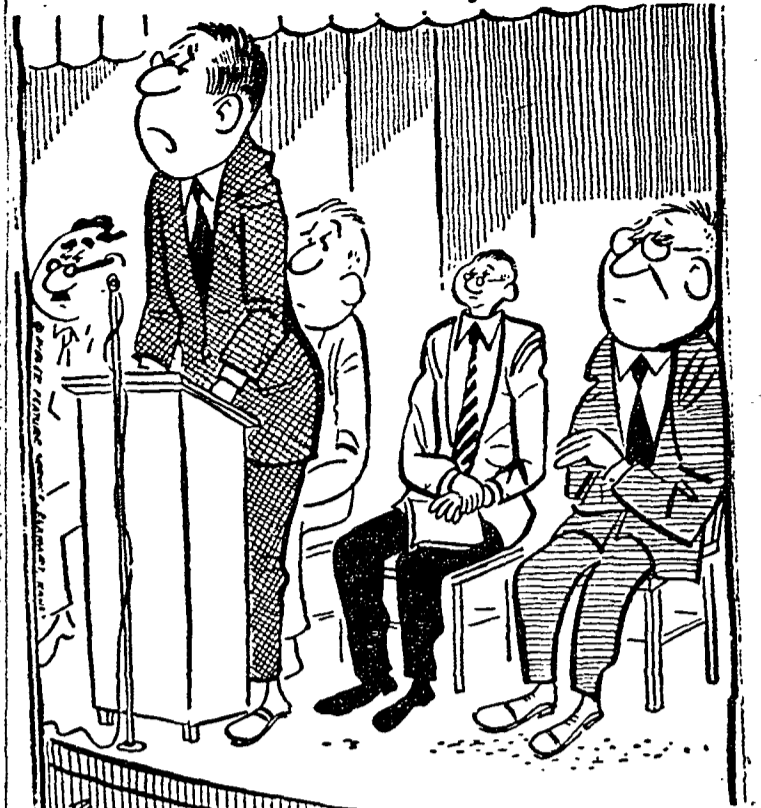
—David W. Faust, '58
Chairman of the Regulations, Controls and Student Welfare Workshop of the 1957 Student Encampment

Letter cut

Gazette

- TODAY
Alpha Kappa Psi, meeting and initiation, 7 p.m., Delta Chi.
American Society for Metals, 7:30 p.m., Mineral Sciences Auditorium.
Association of the United States Army, 8 p.m., 1 Carnegie.
Campus Party Publicity Committee, 7 p.m., 209 HUB.
Collegian Business Staff, 7:30 p.m., 202 Willard.
Collegian Business Staff Candidates, 6:45 p.m., 305 Sparks.
Collegian Promotion Staff, 6:30 p.m., 209 Willard.
Gamma Sigma Pledges, 6:45 p.m., 119 Osmond.
Graduate School Lecture, 8 p.m., 121 Sparks.
Intercollegiate Conference on Government, 7:30 p.m., 204 Willard.
Meteorology Seminar, 4:10 p.m., 202 Willard.
Newman Club, Film on Marriage, 7 p.m., 10 Sparks.
Panhellenic Council, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB.
Student Landscape Society, 7:30 p.m., Sigma Alpha Epsilon.
University Christian Association, 3-5 p.m., Chapel.
Vesper Services, 4:30 p.m., Chapel.
WSGA Judicial Board, 5 p.m., 218 HUB.
TONIGHT ON WDFM
6:45: Sign on, news and market reports; 7:00: The Home Ec. show; 7:15: Folk Music; 7:30: State news and national sports; 8:00: Invitation to Relax; 8:00: Open to Question; 9:00: Campus news and sports; 9:15: As You Believe; 9:30: Cabinet Reports; 11:00: National and international news; 11:05: This World of Music; 11:30: News and sign-off.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Biber



"And now, Dr. Clodpate, who will relate his experience among the shrinking natives of Central America."

Interpreting the News

Military Science On Wartime Basis

By J. M. ROBERTS Associated Press News Analyst

The appointment of "czars" to handle vital phases of defense efforts is an old practice, having come to full bloom in the days of McAdoo and Baruch in World War I.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's appointment of Dr. James R. Killian Jr., eminent scientist and administrator,

has not yet addressed himself to that beyond the field of science. He refers to the Air Force and the nation's other military resources as strong defenses. Cutbacks in these fields have been based on the theory that better weapons make reductions possible without endangering strength.

The question now arises whether reliance on this theory is also permitting Russia to make unsuspected gains in the whole field of preparedness. The most optimistic interpretation of Khrushchev's statement that Russia will overtake American industrial production in fifteen years is that Russia will not deliberately make war before then.

If that be true, then an all-out war production program now would be merely shooting the nation's resources into the space of obsolescence. Nevertheless, the United States must keep up if only for the purpose of preventing the Communists from using their power to blackmail other nations into strength-sapping agreements.

And the nation now has good reason to remember that the Communists are capable of big surprises in any field where they choose to concentrate the efforts of the countries over which they new program, and the President hold away.

Leveling off was emphasized after the Korean War and closely connected with the Eisenhower administration efforts to balance the budget. Critics who reminded of what had happened to world relations because of drastic cutbacks after World War II were swayed off as alarmists.

There is, then, policy as well as a new awareness involved in the new program, and the President hold away.

PEANUTS



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Editorials are written by the editors and staff members of The Daily Collegian and do not necessarily represent the views of the University or of the student body.

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