

Editorials

Our Pampered Students

No matter how much reassurance we may get from the White House, Soviet gains in technology are impressive and alarming.

These gains can be traced directly to the educational system in the Soviet Union, where scientific studies and scientific dedication reign supreme.

The average Russian high school graduate has been exposed to 5 years of physics, 4 years of chemistry, 5 years of biology, 1 year of astronomy and a 10-year program of mathematics ranging from arithmetic to calculus.

Thirty per cent of these students, thoroughly backgrounded in technical subjects and completely dedicated to science, enter Soviet colleges and engineering schools.

The engineering schools turn out 80,000 engineers a year, compared with fewer than 30,000 annually in the U.S.

In addition to the strenuous schooling and the emphasis placed on scholastic achievement, an extensive program for gifted children is carried on in the Soviet Union. These gifted children are sought out and encouraged to work at full capacity.

There is no teacher shortage in the Soviet Union. This is understandable since school teachers and college professors make up one of the few elite classes in Russia. They are well paid and highly respected.

No one can deny the simple logical proposition that good teachers in sufficient numbers are needed for a satisfactory system.

It goes without saying, of course, that much of the Soviet educational achievements are accomplished in a way that is anathema to us.

There is little, if any, academic freedom in the Soviet Union. The regime decides how many of which specialists are needed and then dictates who shall train for the needed positions.

The Soviet student is worked to the point of endangering his health. This practice has reached such a serious point that Soviet doctors have condemned it.

Communist ideology is stressed in all phases of schooling and no deviation from the norm is permitted.

Students may question neither fact nor opinion expressed by teachers and professors.

But as numerous as these and other evils in the Soviet educational system are, we can learn from the Russians.

And we can learn from those persons in our country who have been fighting all along for a better system of education in the United States.

In comparison to the need, a small number of scholarships are available in the United States to qualified students. Much of the responsibility of providing more scholarships rests with industry. It is true that many industries support education, but not nearly enough.

The government, too, has a responsibility, we feel, for providing scholarships and other grants for and above the amount now provided.

The Soviet Union may push its students hard, but perhaps we are guilty of being in the opposite extreme. How many primary, secondary and college students do we know who consider school a necessary evil and take it in the lightest vein? This is possibly the fault of so-called "progressive" educational systems which consider finger-painting more important than reading and colleges which consider football more important than philosophy, literature and science.

The fine work being done now with gifted children must be extended and better supported.

Perhaps Soviet achievement is a welcome challenge for developing the great potential in our educational system.

Our duty is to meet it in the American democratic tradition—but to meet it nevertheless.

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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The Daily Collegian

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Safety Valve

'Respect Lost' For Lion's Paw

TO THE EDITOR: Last Thursday night, wanting to see what was going on in student government, I attended the meeting of All-University Cabinet to hear discussion of the proposed CD-ROTC plan. As a Penn State student this was a new experience for me, and one I hope everyone will take the opportunity to have.

I was truly amazed at the proceedings and didn't want to leave—but in another vein I was not very pleased. I saw actions at this meeting, which I never before envisioned as being possible at the top of student government.

I had heard a little about Lion's Paw, and had always envisioned this group as an upright and honorable organization acting for the betterment of Penn State. But after seeing their actions at Cabinet I have lost all respect I ever had for them.

I was able to pick out all of the Lion's Paw members on Cabinet just by their authoritarian manner of speaking and the way they seemed to have their speeches all prepared to give ahead of time.

Each one seemed to attack the proposal from a different side and seemed to speak in a set order. The fellow who sat next to me knew all of the members of the organization and confirmed all my "guesses" as being correct.

It seems to me that a group like Lion's Paw should not try to run Cabinet and student government here at Penn State. Are individuals elected to head their respective groups supposed to be a voting representative of his OWN organization? Or is he to offer the views of a pressure group and so slight student wants.

I believe that in a case where a group of individuals ban together and sacrifice the welfare of the University and its students, it is time for the students to organize and rid themselves of such an undemocratic influence.

After watching Thursday's Cabinet meeting and the true independent thinkers who are in reality representing University and student welfare, I offer my congratulations to those persons... who remain independent and free from outside pressures... —Arnold Harris, '58

Letter cut

Prof Studies Ag Communication

A study of communication processes in a farmer cooperative is being made under the direction of Dr. James H. Hopp Jr., assistant professor of rural sociology.

The Agricultural Experiment Station has received a \$3000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the research.

Members of an advisory committee assisting Copp are Dr. Macklin E. John, professor of rural sociology; Dr. Emory J. Brown, associate professor of rural sociology and agricultural extension; Dr. Clare A. Becker, professor of agricultural business management; Dr. Howard Bonser, professor of rural sociology extension; and John Gauss, professor of agricultural economics extension.

Girard Sentence--

(Continued from page two) practice were told that scientists complained last year they were being "hamstrung by unrealistic security requirements."

Syrian and Egyptian parliaments yesterday approved immediate negotiations for federal union of the two countries and called on other Arab countries to join.

The proposed union is expected to cover foreign, defense, economical, financial and cultural affairs, though the two powers would maintain internal independence.

Players Admen to Meet

Members of Players advertising crew for the shows "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and "Apollo of Bellac" will meet at 6:30 tonight in Schwab Auditorium.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"But he told ME it would leave a scar!"

Shop Talk

College Journalism A la Hip-Hip-Hooray

The latest issue of Editor & Publisher, the Fourth Estate's trade journal, reports that college campus editors "want to give their readers something more than chit-chat and hip-hip-hooray journalism."

The article reports on the annual conference of the Associated Collegiate Press in New York City two weekends ago.

Editors from member papers (The Daily Collegian is not a member) took a dim look at censorship of college papers, and came up with these ideas for more editorial freedom:

• The newspaper should take its own position on national and world politics and even campus affairs.

• The college paper, being a monopoly, should not be just a mirror; it should make students think.

• There should be a major award to stimulate editorial independence on campus papers.

• Readers become apathetic about causes when a newspaper fails to follow through with constructive remedies for conditions it criticizes.

• You don't print everything that happens on campus; there are rules of morality and ethics that figures in editorial responsibility.

• It's the fault of the newspaper if students are not fully informed on a matter of interest to the university.

• The force of personality is needed for good editorials.

• It is the duty of every editor to resign rather than serve merely as a tool of a paper that is nothing more than a journalism laboratory exercise.

• Why have an editor if a faculty board makes the decisions?

• Weakness in the college press are only reflections in the

general public press.

• An editor's freedom should be bound only by the laws of libel.

• To be a good editor you must be willing to be unpopular.

After reading some of the plights of other college papers given in the magazine, we on Collegian are proud we can boast that Penn State has a student-run newspaper with editorial freedom.

We mentioned in passing that The Daily Collegian was not a member of the Associated Collegiate Press. This newspaper dropped membership some years ago.

The main reason: Most of the members are small college weeklies and we feel our problems are quite different from those of the majority of the members; therefore, we feel we have little to gain by membership.

—The Editor

Pedersen to Talk At Officers Dinner

Dr. Sven Pedersen, U.S. Army, retired, who spent the past summer in Libya, will address a dinner meeting of the Centre County chapter, Reserve Officers Association, Wednesday night.

Pedersen, who is from State College, will speak on "Impressions of Libya" at the meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Hetzel Union dining rooms.

