

Editorials

Prestige Up in Smoke

"Nuts!" This was Dr. John B. Hagen's comment after Project Vanguard went up in smoke yesterday. Hagen is director of the project.

"Nuts!" reveals not only his true feeling but the feeling of millions of other Americans. And it expresses this feeling better than a thousand words could.

There is no doubt that the failure of Project Vanguard yesterday to launch America's first earth satellite dealt a new blow to the prestige of the United States.

And America's prestige in the earth satellite field wasn't very high before the specially-designed, 3-stage rocket carrying the test satellite exploded and burned in but two seconds.

We don't know how much yesterday's failure raised President Eisenhower's apprehension. You will remember that when Russia announced it had sent Sputnik I into the heavens, President Eisenhower's apprehension wasn't raised "one iota." We are awaiting the President's next "confidence" TV talk.

Well, the explosion shook Wall Street and most of official Washington. It undoubtedly even shook grassroots America. Only Moscow—and maybe the White House—appeared undaunted over the whole thing. Moscow radio announced, somewhat nonchalantly, that America's first attempt to launch a "U.S. Sputnik" had failed.

The attitude of a segment of official Washington alarmed us just as much as the failure to launch the satellite. Instead of admitting a mistake, some officials tried to take the emphasis off the mistake by attacking the press and its coverage of the attempt to launch the satellite.

If there had been no press coverage, they said, America wouldn't have lost further prestige, for on one, supposedly, would know of any failure.

We doubt if America gains prestige by covering up its mistakes.

In fact, the White House has covered up far too much. We were led to believe far too long that things were all rosy in the world and that Russia wasn't ahead in rockets and missiles. But one day, Oct. 4, the day the space age began, we learned the truth. Russia had its Sputnik I.

We are just as alarmed over the failure to launch a "U.S. Sputnik" as anyone. However, we think America must be willing to admit its failure. Passing the blame off on the press is ridiculous. This will not meet the Russian challenge.

America must sound an even more vigorous note of urgency if it is to meet the Russian supremacy in the scientific and technological field.

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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Gazette

TODAY
Outing Club Ski Division, 1:30 p.m., MI Auditorium
Outing Club Ice Skating Division, 2 p.m., University Rink
TOMORROW
Alpha Nu, 7:30 p.m., 293 Willard
Canterbury Association, 5:00 p.m., Parish House
Chapel Service, 10:35 a.m., Schwab
Freshmen Tea, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Atherton lounge
Hillel Film Forum, 7:30 p.m., foundation
Junior Class Advisory Board, 4 p.m., 214 HUB
Penn State Engineer Coed Circulation Staff, 7 p.m., 207 HUB
Outing Club, 2 p.m., behind Osmond
Protestant Worship Service, 9 a.m., Chapel
Roman Catholic Mass, 9 a.m., Schwab
Wilbur de Paris Concert, 8:30 p.m., Rec. Hall

MONDAY
American Association of University Professors, 7:30 p.m., MI Auditorium
Engineering Mechanics Seminar, 4:10 p.m., 203 Engineering "A"
Faculty Luncheon Club, noon, Dining Room "A" HUB
Student Film, 7:30 p.m., 119 Osmond Lab. "Richard II"
Newman Club Discussion Group, 7 p.m., 104 Program Center
News and Views magazine on sale at Home Ec Building
Penn State Players Advertising Crew, 6:30 p.m., Schwab loft
Phi Beta Kappa, 6:30 p.m., Autoport
Serolls, 8:30 p.m., 271 Simmons

Freshman Women's Tea

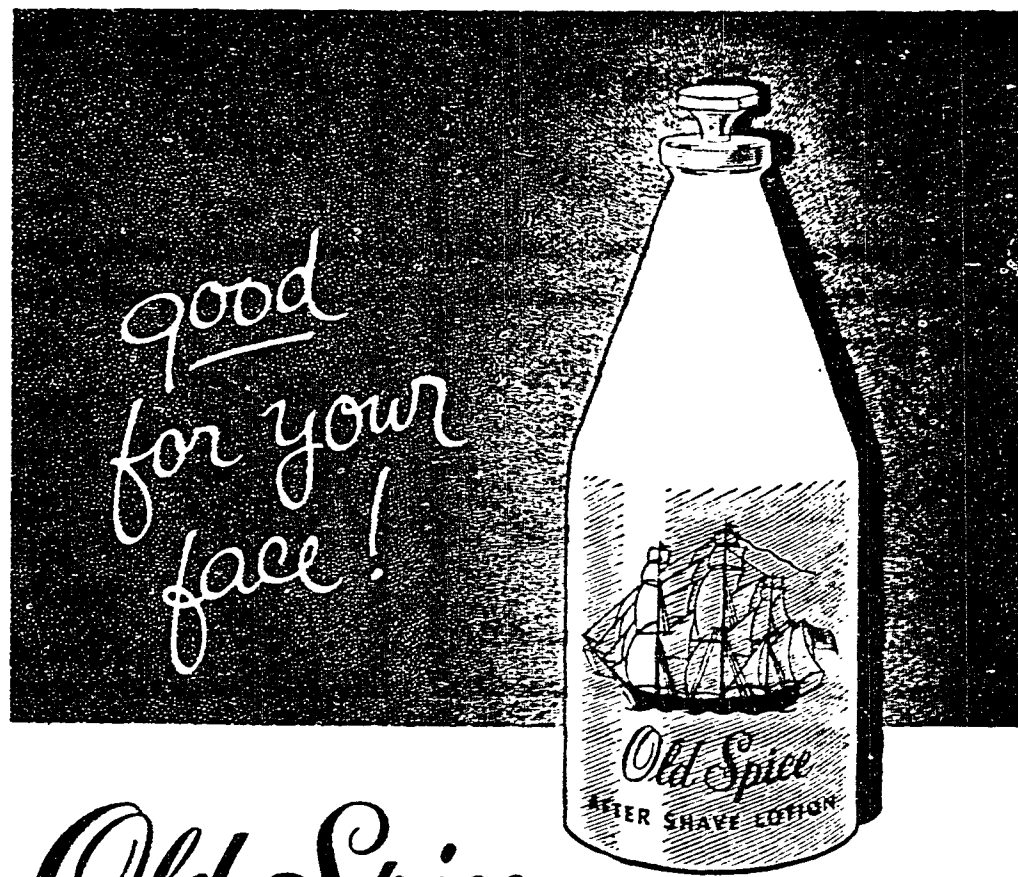
The Freshman women will honor the upperclasswomen at a tea with the theme, "Snowflakes and Pine," from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. tomorrow in Atherton lounge.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Biblee



"Oh-oh—guess too many of us 'skipped' today— He followed us over HERE."

Christmas Party
FOR
Elementary Education Freshmen
Tuesday, Dec. 10 7-10 p.m.
HUB Dining Rooms A & B
FUN, ENTERTAINMENT,
REFRESHMENTS



Old Spice
AFTER SHAVE
LOTION

Refreshing antiseptic action heals razor nicks, helps keep your skin in top condition. 1.00 plus tax

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