

Editorial Opinion

Sputnik equals 180 + 40

A Sputnik-inspired conference on education that could lead to a 6-day school week and a longer school year in Pennsylvania has been called by Gov. George M. Leader.

The special conference will be held Jan. 28 and 29 in Harrisburg. One hundred leading Pennsylvania educators have been invited to discuss how the quality of the education in the more than 2500 school districts in the state can be improved.

No one, it seems, would be greatly surprised if the special conference recommended a 220-day minimum school year. The present minimum is 180.

And to get in these extra 40 days, Saturdays may be used.

Although we feel the quality of the education in the public schools can definitely be strengthened within the present 180 days, we are most happy to see that the Leader administration and the educators have not stopped there.

It seems that not too many months ago—in the pre-Sputnik time—not too many politicians would even have considered a longer school year, for it would cost money.

That was when both Democrats and Republicans were going out of their way to see how they could save money on education. And they came up with some ways, including the Penn State "disaster budget."

Without arguing which party did the least for education in the last legislative session, it will suffice to say that both parties did not do enough.

But thanks to Sputnik, money seems to be of secondary importance for a change. It appears the state is going to make an effort to meet the Soviet challenge, and it undoubtedly will be a non-partisan effort. In fact, Penn State may get what it asks for in the next biennium.

Thankful 'tho we are for this somewhat belated effort, we can't help wondering how much better off America would be if it didn't take a Sputnik to wake up America to the Soviet challenge in education and scientific and technological supremacy.

The Season Arrives

Many special Christmas events have been planned for Penn State students, and two of them are especially appealing to us.

The Chapel Choir will present its impressive candlelight service at 10:55 tonight in Schwab Auditorium, and Jon Barry Wilder will present a reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at 8 p.m. Monday in the Helen Eakin Eisenhower Memorial Chapel.

We can think of no better way of getting into the spirit of the season than by listening to the Chapel Choir sing traditional Christmas music and by hearing a talented young man read one of the classic Christmas stories.

We've Gotta Speak Up

Although we generally don't take a stand on an issue like this, we cannot keep quiet any longer.

It's been in the air for some time now and we haven't commented upon it yet. But we now feel that too many students have been cold toward this issue far too long. And, what's more, we can't take much more of it.

We hope the weatherman does something about this... cold weather.

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Interpretation

Britain Verging On Saving Her Economic Life

By J. M. ROBERTS Associated Press News Analyst

Great Britain today seems to be on the verge of saving her economic life with a scientific development ranking second only to the application of coal power to her machinery two hundred years ago.

In the early part of the 18th century Britons sparked an industrial revolution which has since remade the living standards of a large part of the world. It made her a rich and powerful nation with interests around the globe.

It made it possible for her to support far more millions of people than could have lived on what was produced by her little island. She took the raw materials of the world, processed them, and sold them back at huge profits. She became the banker of the world.

After two devastating wars, Britain appeared to be headed for a return to an insular economy. Her industrial revolution had spread until she faced terrific trade competition and the loss of foreign markets for foreign industries. Mining her coal, the major source of her economic strength, became uneconomical.

So she turned to production of power through the use of uranium, harnessing the A bomb. But that is an extremely expensive process. Plant construction and conversion of raw materials is slow.

Now the skilled Britons have forged ahead once again to harness a power which could have a far more sensational effect on the life of the world than all the Sputniks.

It is the power which makes the hydrogen bomb such a terrible weapon.

In the early days of her history Britain depended heavily on the seas around her for food. Later she depended on the world seelanes for her commerce. All her life the sea has been her friend and defender.

Now she proposes to go back to the sea in a new crisis, to obtain unlimited quantities of a new raw material for power, heavy hydrogen, and so once more revolutionize her industry.

She can claim again "There'll always be an England," and by that she does not mean just a little island.

Gazette

TODAY: Candlelight Service, 10:55 p.m., Schwab Confessions, 4 and 7 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church

I.R.C.-Cosmopolitan Club, combined Christmas party, 8 p.m., Chapel lounge; Outing Club, Cabin and Trail Division Fun Party, 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; buses behind Osmond; Outing Club Field and Stream Division, Deer Drive; Players' Production, "The Caine Mutiny Story," 8 p.m., Center Stage; Varsity Basketball, 8 p.m., Rec Hall

TOMORROW: Alpha Nu, 7:30 p.m., 203 Willard; Chapel Service, Christmas choral program, 10:55 a.m., Schwab; Circa circulation staff, 6:30 p.m., 209 HUB; Hillier Foundation T.V. Film Forum, 7:30 p.m., Foundation; Mass, 6:30 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel; Outing Club, Field and Stream Division, Annual Game Banquet, 4:30 p.m., Stone Valley Forestry Camp; Protestant Service, 9 a.m., Chapel; Roman Catholic Mass, 9 a.m., Schwab; Sigma Delta Chi smoker, 8 p.m., Pi Kappa Phi

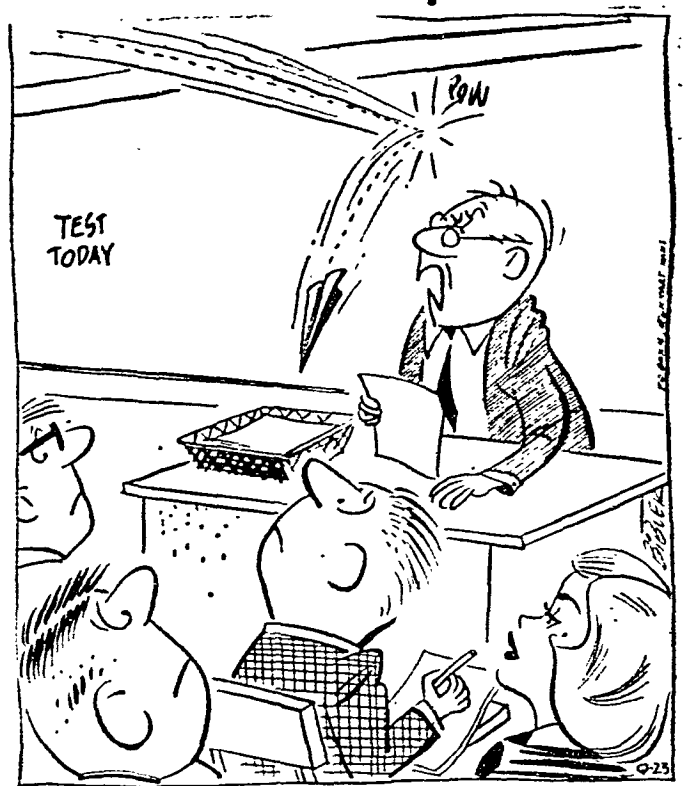
MONDAY: Christmas Candlelight Dinner, 5 p.m., HUB; Faculty Luncheon Club, noon, Hetzel Union; French Club and Spanish Club combined Christmas party, 7 p.m., Grange; Nittany-Pollock Christian Association, 7 p.m., Nittany 28 lounge; Reading, "A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m., Chapel lounge

University Hospital: Marcia Bloom, Jean Colgan, Brian Davis, John Hane, Janet Henninger, Carole Hiller, Joyce Klingman, Edward Kurtick, Susan Leitz, Carl Maxzan, George Motto, James Newbitt, Eric Ohman, Jeanette Spangler, Kurt Strovick, John Williams, Frank Wilson

Weekend on WDFM

Saturday Evening-6:45: Sign on and News; 7:00: Hi Fi Open House; 9:00: Campus Beat; 11:30: News and Sign-off; Sunday Evening-6:45: Sign on and News; 7:00: The Third Programme; 11:30: News and Sign-off; Monday Evening-6:45: Sign on, News and Market Reports; 7:00: The People Act; 7:25: Behind the Lecturn; 7:50: State News and National Sports; 8:00: Sounds in the Night; 8:30: Greek Quiz; 9:00: Campus News and Sports; 9:15: First Freedom; 9:30: Marquee Memories; 10:00: National and International News; 10:05: Symphonie Notebook; 11:00: News and Sign-off

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Hey, there in back! Am I asking too much that you BRING your test paper to my desk when you finish?"

Safety Valve

The Trouble With Cabinet'

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Althouse stated in his editorial that appeared in Tuesday's Collegian that the Penn State students "will not stand for" ineffective leadership in student government. This is remarkable.

Since the beginning of the semester (and in previous semesters), the campus political parties have been literally begging for student opinion and cooperation in student government affairs. There were more than ample opportunities for participation in activities of student government by any interested student, and the overall response was disgusting.

Obviously very few students cared enough to develop an interest in student government, although it was stressed again and again as being beneficial to the student as an individual and to Penn State in general.

Consider the small percentage of students who voted for candidates for All-University Cabinet! The fault, as I see it, does not lie directly with the Cabinet, but with the lack of interest in the Cabinet. What can be expected of a body that secures so little support, and should, by all rights, be supported enthusiastically?

If the students of Penn State want more consideration from All-U Cabinet they should give more consideration to the type of people they elect to Cabinet and take the trouble to consider voting as a responsibility.

Perhaps Cabinet, in its present state, is bowing down to the administration. But is it not feasible to presume that if the Penn State students demonstrated the fact that they were supporting the Cabinet that represents them, the Cabinet would be more inclined to consider controversial

questions with the student benefit in mind?

The trouble with Cabinet is, in an indirect but definite way, the result of apathy toward student government. No student should have to put up with ineffective leadership, but only the students can solve the problem.

Instead of waiting until next Christmas to wait about the injustices of the vacation situation, why not make sure NOW that Cabinet gets the support it deserves. It would be perfectly lovely if the apathy toward student government disappeared, but I doubt if anything short of complete abolishment of the Christmas vacation could wake up Penn Staters to the fact that they need effective student government.

-Ann Pennell, '60

Give Him Library On Saturday Nights

TO THE EDITOR: Frightening as it is to many people, we can thank Sputnik for one thing: a realization of America's lax attitude towards scientific progress.

This can be prominently seen on our own campus in regard to the library hours. What is the only day on which a student, without concern for the next day's classes, may bury himself contentedly in scientific study, may pursue to his heart's content books concerning this subject? Saturday, of course.

Now this may sound strange coming from a Penn State student. As a matter of fact, according to no less an authority than Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, there is a definite lack of an academic atmosphere on our campus. However, isn't it about time we became aware of the important things of life? Certainly most are content to fill their Saturday evenings with parties, dating and the like; but is this any reason we scholarly few should be denied the privileges of the library? I know not what others may think; but as for me, give me the library Saturday night or give me Pitt!

-Dennis Straiter, '58

