

Editorial Opinion

Old Main Curtain Raised

Not too long ago the administration seemed to do practically everything undercover. Seldom were things debated out in the open, but mainly behind closed committee and administrative doors.

But we can't help noticing the difference now. More and more things—far from everything, however—are being brought out into the open for opinion.

The idea of a civil defense course for coeds was brought into the open early last spring by President Eric A. Walker. This was soon after a student suggested the plan to him.

Then a Senate committee studied the idea and made a tentative report. This report was published and open debate has been in progress ever since.

Note the proposed plan to change to a quarter or trimester system. This could have been hushed up, but President Walker told his views (favoring a year-round school year) to Collegian and then further emphasized them in his inaugural address. Then the Senate held a meeting on the issue and it was attended by students as well as faculty and administrative members.

And open debate will undoubtedly continue on this issue until a new plan, if any, is decided upon.

The bringing of things out into the open is not something that just happened by accident. It has been noticeable since Walker became president.

It was probably first noticed when he went campaigning—almost whistlestopping—to get the state funds he felt were necessary to carry on the University's program.

This action broke precedent. Before, the University "lobbied" undercover in Harrisburg for its funds. But Walker brought this into the open, for the most part. He unquestionably worked harder than any previous Penn State president for what he felt were the necessary funds.

Walker, although he is quick to pick up an idea he thinks has possibilities, is not a man to make quick judgments. The more study and the more opinion from the most people, the happier he is.

After accumulating all the facts and opinions possible, then he and his staff make decisions.

Now we do not mean to imply that other Penn State presidents did not seek facts and opinions before making decisions, but, as we have said, this was generally done undercover.

There is no doubt that Penn State will profit by having things debated publicly, for a better understanding of the problems is sure to result. And a better understanding of the problems is the first step to finding solutions.

And airing these problems publicly also enables more opinions and facts to be collected from more people.

Besides this, since the University is supported primarily by public funds, most of its affairs are of public concern.

The Walker administration deserves praise from the students, the faculty, the alumni and the people of the Commonwealth for having more University problems debated publicly. Only a better Penn State can result from this.

If all the world were just, there would be no need of valour.—Plutarch

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.

A Student-Operated Newspaper

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

Mail Subscription Prices: \$3.00 per semester - \$5.00 per year

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Safety Valve

Sharps, Steele Thank Students

TO THE EDITOR: On 22 December I presented to Larry Sharp a check for \$2500, part of the money given to him by his Penn State friends. This was one of the most satisfying acts I have been privileged to perform. I wish that each Penn State student could have seen Larry and witnessed his remarkable spirit and courage.

I wish, too, that each student could have experienced the quiet, heartfelt thanks expressed by his parents, for it was the entire

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from its readers on topics of public interest. Letters should be brief and to the point and all are subject to editing for space requirements and good taste. All letters must be signed, and the withholding from publication the names of writers, when requested, will be left to the discretion of the editors.

student body who made this gift possible. Since this is a memory I can cherish, may I say to Penn State students that I am grateful that I could represent you in this way.

May I also remind all who wish to contribute to the Larry Sharp Fund, but have been unable to do so as yet, that we will be happy to accept contributions so long as people want to give.

True, Christmas is over, but let's not let the Christmas spirit die while we can still do so much for Larry.

I am enclosing a letter which I received from Mr. and Mrs. Sharp. Although it came to me, it really is a letter to each person who joined in helping Larry. I'm sure Mr. and Mrs. Sharp would like it to be a personal letter to each of you.

—Robert J. Steele, '58

All-University president Editor's note: Mr. Steele's letter was received before it was reported in Jan. 8 (Wednesday) Collegian that a member of the Education Student Council accused him of showing a lack of coordination and leadership as chairman of the fund.

TO THE STUDENT BODY: May we take this opportunity to thank you for the very generous contribution which you presented to Larry last week.

The funds will be a tremendous aid financially in his fight for recovery and, what is equally important, you have helped greatly in keeping alive his spirit and determination to be entirely well again.

Larry wants you to know he deeply appreciates the time and effort which his friends at Penn State have devoted to raising this sizable sum on his behalf and that you have truly made his Christmas a very happy one.

It is our earnest hope that we shall be able to accompany Larry to Penn State sometime soon to thank you all personally.

—Mr. and Mrs. George H. Sharp

Gazette

TODAY

Bible Fellowship, 12:45-1 p.m., 218 Hetzel Union; College of Agriculture faculty, 4:10 p.m., 109 Armory; Hillel, Sabbath Eve Services, 6 p.m., foundation; La Vie Proofs for seniors in LA, MI and Phys Ed must be returned to the Penn State Photo Shop by Saturday; Newman Club, 8 p.m., Church Hall; Players Production, "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial," 8 p.m., Center Stage.

TONIGHT ON WDFM

6:45: Sign on and News; 7:00 "A" Train; 7:30: State News and National Sports; 8:00: Hubzapoppin'; 8:30: Friday Night News Round-up; 9:00: Just For Two; 10:00: News; 10:05: Light Classical Jukebox; 11:30: News and Sign-off.

'Who's Who' Booklet Available in HUB

Students who have been selected for the 1957-58 edition of Who's in the News at Penn State may pick up their booklets beginning Jan. 17 at the Hetzel Union desk.

Students other than graduating seniors also may pick up the booklets at the beginning of next semester. A limited number of the publications will be on sale at 50 cents a copy.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Grab a pencil Miss Graves—I've just found an excellent essay question!"

Interpreting the News

Situation, Tricks Aid Ike's Response

By ARTHUR EDSON

Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (AP)—One curious thing about a president's lot: The rougher the situation, the more likely he is to get an enthusiastic reception by Congress.

So it was with President Eisenhower.

Here he came to speak of the Uncertain State of the Union, in a time when great problems literally are out of this world.

And he got a far more friendly reception than he did when things were running smoothly.

Indeed, Eisenhower needed only four minutes to get as much applause as he did in the whole of last year's speech. In four minutes he was interrupted five times by applause. Last year's speech, when times were rosier, fell like a sponge on a foam rubber mat, with only five pauses for applause in the whole shebang.

It's true that this year Eisenhower quickly used a couple of tricks to get the Congress with him. He made a pretty reference to Mrs. Eisenhower, and everyone rose gallantly to applaud the First Lady.

And he followed this up with a bipartisan birthday greeting to House Speaker Sam Rayburn and Vice President Richard Nixon, both of whom are celebrating this week.

These sure-fire touches may have helped warm up his audience. For he was applauded 41 times in 44 minutes, well over par for the presidential course.

Since Eisenhower had had trouble enunciating after his mild stroke, there naturally was considerable worry over how well he would do in such a long test as this.

It's true he stumbled several

times, and he seemed to have difficulty with the letter "s." But Eisenhower never has been the world's most glib speaker, and anyone who didn't know he had had a stroke probably wouldn't have noticed the difference.

His main trouble came only four paragraphs from the end when he came a cropper on a problem that's been around since the first speech ever made—old-fashioned frog in the throat.

One unexplained problem: Usually these State of the Union messages are available to the press well in advance. For some reason, it was held up until around 30 minutes before delivery time.

Is the State of the Union so changeable that every minute counts?

Or was the argument continuing over which word would be the most effective?

La Vie Asks Seniors To Return Photo Proofs

Seniors in Liberal Arts, Mineral Industries and Physical Education must return their La Vie photo proofs by tomorrow to the Penn State Photo Shop.

All proofs not returned by this time cannot be included in the 1958 yearbook.

