

Editorial Opinion

'Deglamorizing' Ruckus

A state-wide ruckus has resulted from last week's Associated Press report that President Eric A. Walker called for a deglamorization of sports and extracurricular activities, in a speech before the Pennsylvania School Administrators at Hershey.

The lead sentence in the wire service report, which was carried substantially intact by Collegian, apparently misinterpreted a statement which Walker made late in the speech: "Somehow, somehow we must find means of making studying and learning at least as attractive to our students as winning football letters and playing in the band."

The AP took this to mean that Walker had "urged a deglamorizing of sports and extracurricular activities," a conclusion not supported by the text of the speech. As Walker himself was quoted later in a release from the University's Department of Public Information, "Unfortunately, there must be a feeling abroad that you can't build up one without tearing down the other."

Within 24 hours after the AP dispatch was printed, Walker was receiving letters and telephone calls about the "deglamorizing" from alumni and sportswriters, who themselves were receiving inquiries. Since then, Walker is reported to have received an apology from the Associated Press.

In handling the story, Collegian has been accused both publicly and privately of indulging in erroneous reporting, participating in a misrepresentation of facts, failing to help correct the situation promptly and a number of other journalistic crimes.

The Associated Press is the oldest telegraphic news agency in the United States and generally is considered the most accurate. Its reliability is so widely accepted that hundreds of editors throughout the country use AP reports daily without questioning the facts contained in them. Indeed, to check each wire dispatch at its source would be physically impossible.

However, Collegian attempted unsuccessfully to obtain a copy of the Walker speech before publishing the article. This was done after the differences were discovered between the AP report and the releases handed out by Public Information, which occurred after Old Main had closed for the day.

Collegian was remiss only in not explaining the more recent developments in the speech story earlier this week—there was never an intended misrepresentation or neglect of the facts on our part.

Greek Week Aftermath

Fraternities and sororities have been praised by representatives of a number of State College organizations for outstanding community service during Greek Week.

Praise came from a recreation director, a minister, the borough manager and downtown merchants.

The community work projects sponsored by the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council during Greek Week represent perhaps the best method of cementing Greek-town relations.

Much of the bad publicity which has unfortunately and unwarrantedly accrued to fraternities can be, and undoubtedly is, reversed by such constructive work.

And the fraternity system deserves the praise being given its members for this work.

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887. Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 6, 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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Letters

Steele Blasts Speech Report

TO THE EDITOR: Once again, through what I assume is simply carelessness, The Daily Collegian has allowed itself to participate in an unfortunate misrepresentation of facts. In your issue of April 24, you reported a speech made by President Walker with the following headline, "Prexy Hits Sports, Activities Emphasis."

Your lead sentence stated, "President Eric A. Walker yesterday urged a deglamorization of sports and other extra-curricular activities in schools and colleges, the Associated Press reported last night."

First, it surprises me that the Associated Press could interpret Prexy's speech as they did. However, more important, it amazes me that The Daily Collegian would blindly publish such an account. I have read Prexy's speech, which I would incidentally recommend to Daily Collegian personnel, and believe that the above interpretation is a rather fantastic one.

In a speech urging strengthening of scholastic programs for students, Prexy made the rather harmless comment that, "Somehow, somehow we must find means of making studying and learning at least as attractive to our students as winning football letters and playing in the band." To read into this statement that Prexy wants to deglamorize sports and activities seems to me to be not only a negative interpretation, but quite erroneous.

In the strategic position The Daily Collegian occupies as the campus newspaper, I cannot imagine the paper indulging in such erroneous reporting. Located as it is, just a few hundred feet from Old Main, The Daily Collegian not only has the perfect opportunity to check such a story for accuracy, but has the definite responsibility to make such an inquiry.

In the past The Daily Collegian has indicated that it has been pleased with Prexy Walker's administration. This being the case, I think you might then do him the courtesy of correctly reporting his views, even if the real facts do make for a slightly less glamorous, less sensational story.

—Robert Steele '58

Tobacco Spit Tilt 'Stains' His Record

TO THE EDITOR: I reckon you are all hankering to know why I, as Forestry Field Day chairman, allowed such a scandalous contest as the tobacco spitting competition to be scheduled. Sure represents a stain (tobacco, that is) on my record.

Well, it's kind of hard to compare two Ivy League schools with our own. But if we stick to our own rank and file and consider such schools as West Virginia, Duke, Oklahoma and Purdue, strangely, all of them have forestry schools and schedule tobacco spitting contests as part of their field days.

Seventeen of the largest Pacific coast forestry schools will meet this month at Augusta, Ga., for a combined field day. Heaven forbid! Tobacco spitting will be the main contest, as it has been for years in the past. Rumors have it that professors at these colleges are out-chewing the students. Stranger yet is the fact that enrollment has increased over the years rather than the opposite as Mr. Pressman predicted (in yesterday's Letters column).

Of course, there hasn't been ample time to air the views of such public spirited groups as Lion's Paw, Daughters of the American Revolution or the Senate Rackets Committee. Repercussions have already started. Tobacco sales have dropped lower than during the cancer scare. Spittoons are giving way to flower pots on the open market. All this in a recession!

Honestly, Mr. Pressman, I can see your view or that of any other person who might have read of the event. However, if you had observed the contest in person, as close to 100 persons did, you might agree with them that it represented one of the humorous highlights of the afternoon. Believe me, it was far from unsanitary.

—Robert LaBar, '59 Field Day chairman

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Eddie! Eddie Boy!—Ya Jus' set a record! Where are ya Eddie?"

'Offshore' Buying Causes Complaint

By J. M. ROBERTS Associated Press News Analyst

The United States has saved considerable money by meeting some of its foreign military obligations under mutual assistance agreements by "offshore" purchases.

It means that, instead of paying American prices for manufacture of war materiel and shipping it abroad, the United States pays foreign prices to manufacturers in the recipient countries.

Repayment schemes have been tailored to fit the needs of the Allies in maintaining a generally solid military and economic front. Part of the repayments have been used to pay for U.S. operations in the various countries. Sometimes repayment, in foreign currency, is rebated for use in foreign developments of value to the general welfare of the free world.

This is also the case with economic aid.

During the business boom, this has not attracted much attention in this country, since a major portion of foreign military equipment has been made here.

Widespread complaint has developed, however, as a result of the recession.

With heavy unemployment in the automobile industry, for instance, revelation that vehicles for the Japanese military are being bought in Japan by the United States has aroused opposition.

The Defense Department replies that 85 per cent of this year's appropriations for foreign military aid will go to American manufacturers. That is about 1 1/2 billion, more than

a third of the total requested for foreign economic and military aid.

The ways in which foreign aid is spent have always caused disagreements in Congress. A case currently in point is that of the Dominican Republic, whose Dictator Trujillo is reported to be spending about a million dollars a year on a son who is studying in the United States. His country, almost a personal fief, is earmarked for slightly more than that in aid.

The general object of the aid program, of course, is to maintain the ability of the participating countries to resist communism. Almost without exception, they are having economic troubles. Even West Germany, which has been booming along side the United States, is showing signs of trouble.

Gazette

TODAY American Society for Metals, dinner, Nittany Lion Inn. Fluid Mechanics Seminar, 4:10 p.m., 1 Sackett. Hillel, Sabbath Eve Service. Illustrated lecture on French painting in National Gallery, 8 p.m., HUB Auditorium. Penn State Bible Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 214 Boucke. Players, "Tonight at 8:30" by Noel Coward, 8 p.m., Center Stage.

