

Editorial Opinion

Exit Honor Code

The honor code has come to its final and well-deserved rest. The code was quietly voted out of existence by the Women's Student Government Association Senate Wednesday night, climaxing a long and futile attempt to implement an honor system for coeds.

It is not difficult to see why WSGA decided officially to kill the code. There was very little support for the system at any time during its existence. The actual number of coeds who signed the code was never high, and after the original signees put themselves on the code, the number apparently grew at a speed approaching a complete standstill.

The honor code never really got off the ground. Its founders went at the project with a generous helping of idealistic gusto, but found it was backed up with too little realistic planning.

One of the honor code's greatest drawbacks was that it was too nebulous—no one knew just what the code aimed at, and how it intended to get there. When boiled down, the code provided only that a signee affirmed her own honesty and ability to live within the University's rules without supervision . . . although the supervision was never lessened for the signees.

This made the code rather pointless, but there was no way to change it. Special privileges could not have been granted without the taint of bribery, and fortunately the code at least avoided this. So the code really provided nothing, and consequently it failed.

Whether or not an honor system could succeed at a university the size of this one, and whether it could succeed as an involuntary project applying only to those who request it, is questionable.

If there are other attempts at an honor system, however, we hope they will not be undertaken until they can solve some of the problems which so overwhelmed the late honor code.

Touchdown on Tickets

Football contests against Pitt, Army, Syracuse and West Virginia traditionally have given Penn Staters some of the most exciting sports thrills available anywhere.

Now comes the announcement that, in addition to traditional teams, the Nittany Lions in future years will face such powerhouses as UCLA, Oregon, Navy and Southern California. It is a pretty sure thing that as the University grows, so will its list of top-flight opponents.

And as the list grows, football fans—especially alumni—more and more will want to watch these games. Well, the kickoff for the spectators is this week: members of the alumni association, which is now accepting memberships from graduating seniors, receive about two weeks advance notice on football ticket sales.

Special consideration in the ticket line is only one of the benefits received by members of the Alumni Association.

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 8, 1934 at the State College Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1979. Mail Subscription Price: \$3.00 per semester - \$5.00 per year

ROBERT FRANKLIN Editor



FRANK VOJTASEK Business Manager

City Editor, David Fineman; Managing Editor, Richard Drayne; Sports Editor, Lou Prato; Associate Sports Editor, Matt Mathews; Personnel and Public Relations Director, Patricia Evans; Copy Editor, Lynn Ward; Assistant Copy Editor, Dick Fisher; Photography Editor, Robert Thompson.

Credit Mgr., Janice Smith; Local Ad Mgr., Tom Buckey; Asst. Local Ad Mgr., Robert Piccone; National Ad Mgr., Betsy Brackbill; Promotion Mgr., Kitty Bueger; Personnel Mgr., Mickey Nash; Classified Ad Mgr., Barbara Ryan; Circulation Mgr., Mary Anna First and Murray Simon; Research and Records Mgr., Mary Herbelin; Office Secretary, Myla Johnson.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night Editor, Bobbi Levine; Copy Editor, Jeff Pollack; Wire Editor, Marie Russo; Assistant, Lucy Thiessen, Don Casciato, Judy Rosenblum, Helen McCafferty, Elaine Miele, Mack MacGaughan.

'Showing Flag' In S. America Called Ticklish

By J. M. ROBERTS Associated Press News Analyst

The United States has been engaged this week in one of the oldest and most ticklish forms of diplomacy—showing the flag, they used to call it.

As developed by the British during their heyday of empire, it amounted to a silent announcement of political interest, a reminder of latent power, and a threat.

Frequently it led to a fight, and some British parliamentarians argued that it should never be used unless a fight was accepted as the possible denouement.

In more modern times, as when Theodore Roosevelt sent the fleet around the world with special arrangements that it be seen by the German Kaiser, showing the flag has been more of a deterrent effort than a fighting threat.

That's what it was when the 6th fleet was dispatched suddenly to the Eastern Mediterranean several years ago during the Jordan crisis, when Egypt and Syria were making threatening noises.

That's what it was when Air Force nuclear bombers flew non-stop around the world. Indeed, it has been a major factor in the whole Western program of nuclear development.

This week the military colors of the United States have been waved at four major points of world disturbance.

Two of the displays have been what they call routine—joint maneuvers with the British not far from Algeria, and an even more routine SEATO operation north of Indonesia which was protested by the Communists.

In the Eastern Mediterranean naval units have moved to the Lebanon area, and the fleet's allotment of Marines enlarged.

U.S. planes have flown weapons to the Lebanese government.

The most debateable show of power was in the Caribbean. The United States flew Army and Marine reinforcements to U.S. bases. The avowed purpose was to have them handy if the Venezuelan government invited help in protecting mob-besieged Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife.

Latin Americans are particularly sensitive about any show of U.S. power. They remember with rancor U.S. military intervention in Haiti and Nicaragua, and the shelling of Mexico's Vera Cruz before World War I.

Critics of the Washington administration are saying that this week's action opened the door for a flood of anti-American propaganda—a flood which the Communists have already turned loose. They contend that a proper appraisal of Nixon's prospects on his tour would have put the troops on the U.S. bases quietly beforehand, if there was any need for them at all.

Gazette

TODAY

- Alumni Membership, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., HUB Card Room
Armed Forces, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Card Room and Ground Floor Lobby HUB
Christian Fellowship, 12:45-1 p.m., 218 HUB
Economics Faculty Seminar, noon, dining room A, HUB
Football Meeting, 5 to 6 p.m., Assembly Hall HUB
Hillel, Sabbath Eve Services, 8 p.m., Foundation
Jazz Concert, 8 p.m., Schwab Auditorium
Nittany Dance, 9 p.m., Ballroom, HUB
Newman Club, Spring Fling, 8 p.m., Church Hall
Penns. Newspaper Publishers Association, Editor's Conference, 10 a.m., Nittany Lion Inn
Players, "Tonight at 8:30," 8 p.m., Center Stage
WDFM, 7-9 p.m., Assembly Hall HUB
WRA, Free Swim, 7-9 p.m., White Hall

Nineteen Junior Men Tapped by Androcles

Nineteen students have been tapped by Androcles, junior men's hat society.

They are Charles Bartholomew, Charles Blunt, David Epstein, Kenneth Florence, Theodore Haller, William Jaffe, Louis Johnson, Leonard Julius, Jerome Karp, Irving Klein, Martin Leshner, Bernard Magdovitz, Vincent Marino, Wayne Mason, Robert Owens, Jame Portman, Robert Thompson, William Vandegrift and Howard Wolfley.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Math 'F,' Psych 'F,' an' a 'C' in Phys. Ed.—just shows ya what happens when ya spend all yer time studying one subject."

Behind the News

He's 'Thumbing It' Down Route 322

By Bob Franklin

If you have never taken the night run down Route 322 sitting in the darkened cab of a tractor trailer truck hauling 18 tons of plate glass, you have missed an experience to remember.

At least, so says a hitchhiking friend of ours. "Thumbing it," a popular method of transportation with many students, is against state law and is considered a most dangerous activity for both rider and driver.

It is unfortunate that relatively few deaths and robberies on the highway make hitchhiking so dangerous, our friend says, for the open-car-door policy can lead to some interesting and unusual situations.



Our friend learned one of his first hitchhiking lessons late one Thursday night when he left State College bound for Harrisburg. He got into a car at College Avenue and Atherton Street without asking the driver's destination, so he waited an hour for his second ride—at Boalsburg.

Riding in a tractor-trailer behemoth at night when truck traffic is heavy feels, we are told, something like trying to harness the "irresistible force": one wonders if such a huge mass, having attained such momentum, could be stopped in time to avoid collision with an "immiveable object" such

as bridge abutment, tree or somebody's house (probably his).

Our friend, who says he has "hitched" everything from Cadillacs to concrete mixers, described first comments on entering a vehicle as ranging from "I remember you from last year" to "I hope you have insurance" and "You better not have a club in that bag!"

Since the times of Lincoln and Douglas, debates have attracted more than average interest among Americans. The University makes good use of the device of debate as an extracurricular activity. And there is almost no better way than a debate between well-informed individuals to bring out pertinent information and get to the heart of a matter.

We recently had the opportunity to hear Sen. Albert Gore (D.-Tenn.) and Rep. Charles B. Brownson (R.-Ind.) debate on national issues. At the time we wished the rest of the student body could hear the remarks of two such capable individuals.

It seems to us that the University and the student body might gain a great deal through such a public debate, or even one between two of the more prominent nominees for the November election, if it could be arranged.

