

Editorials

Collegian Policy in Printing the News . . .

(The following editorial was originally published April 29 when the present Board of Editors took over operation of The Daily Collegian.)

The first function of any newspaper is to print the news—to inform the human race of what its members are doing, feeling and thinking, and to do this as accurately and fairly as possible. A relatively new function of the newspaper is to provide objective news analysis and background so that the readers may know not only what happens, but also why it happens and who is making it happen.

The Daily Collegian as a newspaper enjoys a measure of freedom in action and expression that is not found in many professional nor most college newspapers. Collegian, Inc., a board of members of the student body, faculty and administration who serve as the paper's publisher, has delegated responsibility for the newspaper's day-to-day operations to the Board of Editors.

The freedom that Collegian enjoys brings with it corresponding responsibilities. We pledge ourselves to uphold the responsibilities we assume in putting out a newspaper—to report the news as accurately and fairly as possible, to exercise our best judgment in coverage and display, to not knowingly print a falsehood and to correct any errors that may be printed, to keep bias from creeping into our news columns, and to treat equally and fairly all persons and organizations. This, we maintain, is the only way to operate a newspaper.

To fulfill these responsibilities, Collegian believes that within the limits of its abilities it must present to its readers what they have a right to know: what is going on in the world, with particular emphasis on what is going on at the University.

Because a newspaper does not make the news, but merely reports it, everything which fills its pages is not all pleasant. Collegian, like any other newspaper, is dedicated to printing a complete picture of the news. Therefore, it must print the unhappy news along with the pleasant.

In reporting what it finds to be true,

. . . And Editorials: For a Better Penn State

Presenting the news is only one function of a responsible newspaper. It also has an obligation, we believe, to interpret the news and to comment on it.

For many years The Daily Collegian has striven "For a Better Penn State." This is our single motto—our single goal.

Some students and administration personnel have expressed the belief that Collegian should be a "house organ"—that it should print only articles which reflect favorably on the University community.

We strongly disagree. It is The Daily Collegian's belief that the best way to a better Penn State is to praise its attributes, constructively criticize its faults and present the facts about it. To do anything less would be to engage in distortion and falsification. And distortion and falsification are not the way to a better Penn State.

We believe that editorials must be fair and must present an honest, well-thought out viewpoint. However, they need not present a popular viewpoint. We will never criticize for the sake of criticizing, and we will make alternative suggestions whenever possible.

Collegian does not claim to be a mold of student opinion, but rather a guide. In our editorials we attempt to present viewpoints, not dogma. Because at least one of the functions of Collegian editorials is to inspire students to think for themselves, editorials often will present both sides of an issue.

a newspaper sometimes makes enemies. People by nature wish to know the truth only so long as it does not make them uncomfortable; it is only when the truth distresses them that they condemn what they consider excesses of freedom of the press.

Acting under its cherished freedom, Collegian is able to present the news it believes is significant to its readers. As a student publication, Collegian feels obligated to print campus news; but because of limitations in space and manpower it cannot print all the news of every group or event.

Since the University is supported largely by public funds, most of its affairs are of public concern. Collegian, therefore, believes it has the right to call upon University officials for information that is of legitimate concern to the public or the student body.

Collegian is not a publicity sheet. It will print publicity only when it is also news. The decision as to what constitutes news necessarily rests upon the judgment of the editors, who have been trained to make such decisions. Because few newspapers can print all the news that comes into their offices, today's editors must be selective.

News is relative to other news of the day. The prominence any article receives depends upon what the editors believe to be its importance as compared to other articles of the day, as well as depending upon available space.

We believe Collegian reporters attending meetings have the same rights the public itself would have—to see and hear all that takes place. "Off-the-record" remarks at a public meeting are in fact not off the record by virtue of the fact that anyone could walk in and hear them.

This newspaper will pursue its reporting duty as it sees it: to find, write and circulate the news and to supply adequate background and analyze information with a maximum of accuracy and sincerity of purpose and without bias, prejudice or hope of material gain.

Collegian supports no national or campus political party. It has, however, the right to comment upon platforms, candidates and actions of any and all political parties.

Collegian does not claim to represent the majority of student opinion, the faculty, the staff, the alumni or the University itself. However, its editorials do represent the viewpoint of the newspaper. When Collegian wishes to emphasize its position on a matter, an editorial is signed by the Board of Editors.

A member of the board who wishes to present an individual view or to look at a matter in a personal aspect can do this in a column.

We also welcome the views of readers through letters to the editor. Letters must be signed because we believe the writers must assume the responsibility for what they say. However, on rare occasions, Collegian may decide to withhold names upon request.

Editorials and letters to the editor are selected for publication according to the same criteria—good writing, good taste and good sense.

Lastly, but not least of all, we welcome criticism. You, the readers, have a responsibility too—to see that we do not accidentally stray from these policies to which we have pledged ourselves, from our journalistic ethics or from our goal: "For a Better Penn State."

—The Board of Editors

Little Man on Campus by Dick Sibley



"Up here now Miss Brewster—it seemed more practical to seat the class alphabetically."

Letters

'Gift' Policy Is Queried

TO THE EDITOR: I was incensed when I read of the action of the University Trustees regarding the gift of the Class of '58. As a member of that class I am interested in the class gift, but as a former staff member of WDFM I am also aware of the great potential of a University AM station. I think I am also aware of some of the problems involved in getting such a station established.

I don't feel that I have adequate information to make outright charges concerning the issue, but the air smells foul to me, and has ever since the question of an AM station was raised several years ago.

What more convenient and subtle way for the administration to succumb to "political" pressure which opposes the establishment of an AM station than to suddenly announce that the money which was voted to the project isn't available?

What more opportune moment to announce the magnanimity of the administration in the past?

What better coverup could public relations experts devise than the announcement of the University's generosity, coupled with the decoy issue of the senior class gift.

If the University will continue to support worthy student projects in the future, let (it) start with an AM radio station. Let (it) decide the issue on "its own merits" without undue regard for "outside" pressures.

I am confident that the University community will act quickly in this case by letting

(its) views be known, and will thereby preserve the tradition of the class gift as well as the chance for the community to benefit from an AM radio station.

—Paul H. Nelson
graduate student

Gazette

TODAY

Clover Club, H. B. Sprague on "The Need for Men Trained in Agriculture," 7:15 p.m., 111 Tyson
Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
Collegian Promotion Staff, 7 p.m., 209 Willard
Ed Council, 7:30 p.m., 214 HUB
Freshman Customs Board, 6:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB
Freshman Regulations Board, 12:30 p.m., 212 HUB
4-H Club, National Judging, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 215, 216, 203 HUB
Proth Circulation Staff, 6:45 p.m., HUB Auditorium
IFC-Panhel meeting, 4 p.m., 212 HUB
Liberal Arts Council, 6:30 p.m., 212, 213 HUB
LaVie Meeting, 7 p.m., 216 HUB
Marketing Club, 7 p.m., 215 HUB
Outing Club, Skating Division, 7 p.m., 111 Boucke
Panhellenic Council, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
WDFM News, Staff and Candidates, 7 p.m., 9 Carnegie
WRA Golf Club, 3 p.m., Caddy House
WRA Hockey Club, 4:15 p.m., Holmes Field
WSGA Judicial, 6:15 p.m., 217 HUB

Agronomy Seniors Named to Offices

Paul Johnson, senior in agronomy from Clymer, and James Holt, senior in agronomy from Philadelphia, were elected to national offices of the American Society of Agronomy at Purdue University.

Johnson was elected to the vice presidency and Holt was re-elected as corresponding secretary. They are members of the Penn State Clover Club, a member of the student section of the American Society of Agronomy.

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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The Daily Collegian

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