

Editorial Opinion

Floating Half-Holiday Best Chance in Years

After fumbling the half-holiday ball miserably for years, student government has picked it up and may throw the long pass that could lead to a touchdown next year for that elusive dream of the student football fan—an away game weekend without class-cutting.

All-University Cabinet will get the ball tonight in the form of a report from John Bott and Patricia O'Neill, student members of the Senate Calendar Committee. When Bott and O'Neill kicked off on the half-holiday issue before the committee on Monday they were asked to get a recommendation from Cabinet.

Now, since the committee members apparently think they need coaching on the students' wishes, it is up to Cabinet to ask for a floating half-holiday plan—and to ask for it in no uncertain terms.

Probably the best immediate plan is the one suggested by Bott and Miss O'Neill: one floating half-holiday for each semester, with the exact date on which classes are to be called off determined by Cabinet or by a method set up by Cabinet. The plan should be included in the calendar on a permanent basis, beginning with the 1959-60 year.

But action must be quick and sure, for the clock is running out and the opposition is likely to be stiff.

A definite calendar for the 1959-60 year will have to be agreed upon in a matter of weeks, it is reported. And even a prompt and strong student government resolution may have to make an end run around determined opposition by some administration and senate members.

There is, in fact, the chance that a student half-holiday request may get "lost" in the mazes of administration and Senate channels, where so many other student requests have been "investigated" until they have been forgotten by unthinking student leaders.

The issue of the student half-holiday has a long history, often scarred with defeats for the student body, students must share the blame for these defeats.

Times have changed radically from the days when President Edwin Earl Sparks declared an occasional recess in classes for a baseball game with Bucknell or for some other college athletic event.

The last football half-holiday was declared in 1954 for the Penn football game, and it was granted on the condition that no request would be made for time off for the Pitt grid contest.

Since that year the only holiday given was the half-day extension of the 1956-57 Christmas recess. And that one was granted only after students and parents united in protest after they realized that some students would have to travel in dangerous New Year's Day traffic if the recess was not extended.

The 1955 Student Encampment recommended "that a committee work with the proper administration in scheduling for 1956-57 or 1957-58 two half-holidays in the fall and one full holiday in the spring, all to be floating and determined by Cabinet."

Repeated student requests for time off from classes have been turned down, it would appear, because of several reasons. These include both lack of student foresight (asking too late) and administration and Senate unwillingness to change calendar plans.

Equally important to the half-holiday proposal but less persistent over the years has been a plea for more time between the end of a semester's classes and the beginning of final examinations. Many times finals follow classes by only an hour, or finals and classes are separated only by a lunch hour.

Student action on both these issues now stands perhaps the best chance for success in years. There does not appear to be any reason why these extra days cannot be provided for in the 1959-60 calendar.

Letters

Ed Big Sister Plan Explained

TO THE EDITOR: An apology is due you (freshmen) women in education who anticipated a big sister for this fall and have not been contacted by one.

Last year the Education Student Council initiated this program with great expectations. Unfortunately, however, the appointed chairman transferred to another school and was unable to have this project completed on time. Therefore many of those who were to be your big sisters did not receive your names.

As co-chairmen we would like to explain why we cannot complete this program. There is no master list available, and for a college as large as the College of Education, it is physically impossible to rematch the names in time to be of any benefit to you.

Therefore we must start anew to plan a successful program for new education students in February, and we hope that you have enough interest in being a big sister to apply at a later date.

We urge the upperclass women who did receive names to get in contact with their little sisters. (Persons with) questions or problems may call the co-chairmen.

—Jody Miller, '60, x1334J
—Jeanette Butler, '60, x1053

Dean Renamed To Coal Post

Edward Steidle, dean emeritus of the College of Mineral Industries, began a third 3-year term in July as chairman of the Federal Coalmine Safety Board of Review.

He was renominated by President Eisenhower and the appointment was confirmed by the Senate on June 30.

The post has taken Steidle on three world trips concerning mine safety, traveling more than 150,000 miles. He left for a 3-month trip to the south seas in October 1957.

Gazette

TODAY

- American Rocket Society, 7 p.m., 105 Mechanical Engineering
- Androcles, 10 pm., Phi Sigma Delta
- Bridge Club, 6:30 p.m., HUB Cardroom
- Bryan Green Publicity Committee, 2:30 p.m., 218 HUB
- Chimes, 4 p.m., 212 HUB
- Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
- Christian Science Organization, 7 p.m., 212 Chapel
- Cwens, 8:30 p.m., 216 HUB
- Eastern Orthodox Society, 7 p.m., 216 HUB
- Fresh Customs Board, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB
- Froth Board of Directors, 6:30 p.m., 212 HUB
- Graduate Student Convocation, 9 a.m., HUB Ballroom
- Hillel Governing Board, 7 p.m., Hillel Foundation
- Hillel Membership Committee, 8 p.m., Hillel Foundation
- Insurance Club, 7 p.m., Beta Theta Pi
- News and Views, 6:45 p.m., 14 Home Economics
- Outing Club, 7 p.m., 121 Sparks
- Philosophy Lecture Series, 8 p.m., 10 Sparks
- State Future Farmers of America conference, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 217 HUB 7-10 p.m., 214 HUB
- Travel Film, 7 p.m., HUB Assembly Hall
- Watts Mixer, No. 1, 2, 6:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

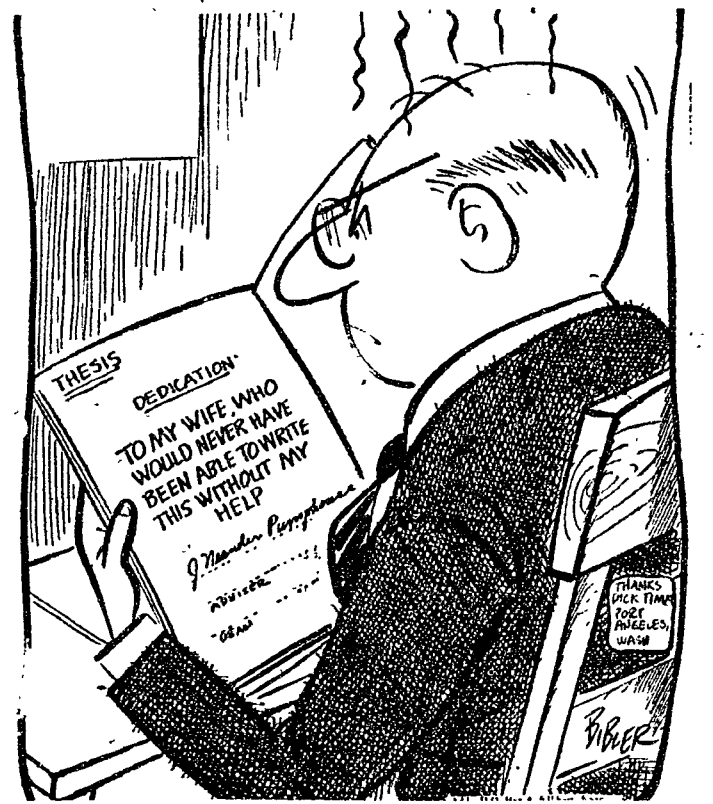
Judith Bausch, Sandra Biber, Barbara Carney, James Brott, Gerald Cooper, Virginia Dean, Patricia Frank, Joan Hamilton, Robert Jones, Stanley Katzman, William Krum, Francis McGowan, Carol Michael, Stuart Medwin, Beverly Miller, Richard Pigossi, Clarence Rimmel, Richard Sabel, Walter Shanks.

Rocket Society Meeting

The American Rocket Society will meet at 7 tonight in Mechanical Engineering.

After the organization meeting the movie, "Road to the Stars," will be shown.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



—from here to infinity—
Sunglasses Sail In Snapping Safari
by bob thompson

Ever drop a pair of sunglasses 1200 feet over Whipples Dam?

Actually this feat isn't as hard as it may sound. It is the price I paid for wearing sunglasses while taking aerial photographs.

The picture-taking safari into the wild blue yonder finally materialized this week after three weeks of preparations. Actually it amounted to about 15 minutes of planning and another two weeks, six days, 23 hours, and 45 minutes of waiting until the conditions were exactly right for pictures.

One of the biggest problems confronting me was the weather. State College isn't noted for its good weather, and last week was no exception. Then when there were ideal days for picture-taking, the photographer had a full slate of classes.

Finally, the THOMPSON day arrived when the weather and the scheduling office agreed. I made the arrangements with the pilot, and he assured me that all would be ready as soon as I arrived.

I got to the airport and found everything ready all right, but we didn't leave the ground for another half hour. Seems in my haste to get to the airport before the weather changed, I grabbed a dirty white shirt off the hook instead of a white windbreaker. We had to search the airport for something warm for me to wear.

Finally, looking like something out of Lindbergh's memoirs, the photographer strode to the plane, camera in hand.

It wasn't until I got in the plane that I realized why the pilot had been so hep on my getting a jacket. There wasn't any door on the plane.

This, I thought would be the easiest thing going. All I had to do was sit back and snap the button whenever I thought I had a good picture. Had I been taking pictures of cloud formations, this would have been ideal.

However, to see the ground—which held my major interest—I had to lean (safety-belted) out of the door that wasn't there (as the plane cruised along at 80 miles an hour!)

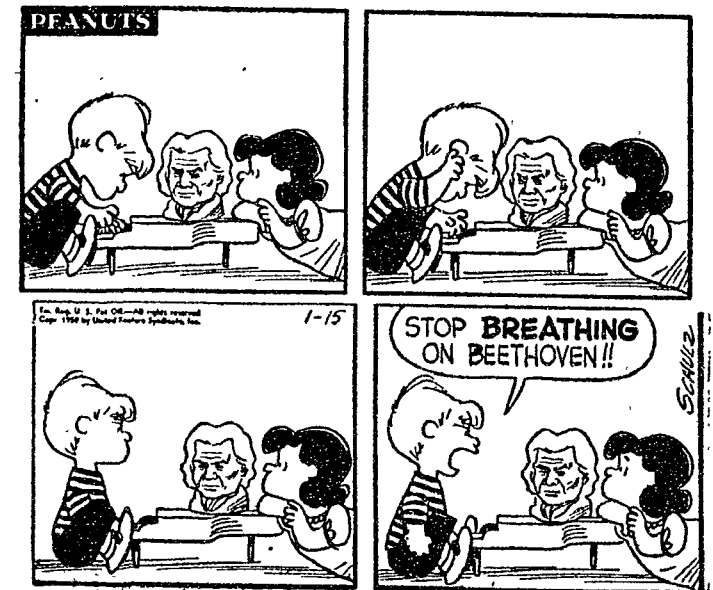
All went well on the shots of Stone Valley—after I got the knack of leaning out of the plane with one foot resting on the step.

The wind in my face wasn't too bad. I had a pair of sun glasses on to shield my eyes. I had them on, that is, until the pilot motioned for me to look at something behind the plane.

As I did, I discovered, much to my surprise, that sunglasses have the same properties as do the sails on a sailboat. And this sailboat wasn't tied up to the dock. Away they went, sailing groundward in the vicinity of Whipples.

I reached for the sailing spectacles—too late.

By the way, you're all invited to my funeral in 73 parts of Whipples tomorrow.



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 1, 1934 at the State College Pa Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Price: \$3.00 per semester - \$5.00 per year

ROBERT FRANKLIN
Editor

FRANK VOJTASEK
Business Manager

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night Editor, Cathy Fleck; Copy Editor, Lianne Cordero; Wire Editor, Denny Malick. Assistants, John Root, Carol Blakeslee, Katie Davis, Dex Hutchins, Phyllis Hamilton, Marty Rife, Ginny Croft, Barbara Foster and Pat Varga.