

Editorial Opinion

Help for the Library?

Posibly the biggest benefit ever to befall the University library is in the works.

The State Library Association has proposed a state-wide library system which would include the University library system as one of four regional research libraries.

If the plan is enacted by the state legislature, presumably the legislature would provide most of the necessary financial support. And the University library system would have to double its present number of volumes—with the aid of state funds.

One million volumes was the minimum number recommended by the library association for each of the four regional research libraries. The University, as of June 30, had 484,852 volumes on the main campus and 43,971 volumes in off-campus extension facilities, a total of 528,823.

The number of volumes in the University library system and the funds allotted to it have been scandalous for years. While the University is among the top dozen in the nation in student enrollment, the number of volumes in its library system doesn't rank in the top 50, according to estimates of University Librarian Ralph W. McComb.

McComb also estimated that less than two per cent of the University budget is spent on library facilities. This figure is below average, he said.

Perhaps the State Library Association's plan can provide the more adequate library facilities that the University so far has been unable to provide.

No 'Connections' Needed

The importance of "who you know" is being taken out of student government.

All-University President Jay Feldstein yesterday held personal interviews for all students interested in student government. Feldstein will file the information on each interview and consult the files for appointment to All-University Cabinet committees.

Too often in the past appointments to committees have been determined by "connections," simply because student leaders knew so few qualified persons. As a result it was many times harder for a newcomer to break in, and the same groups controlled much of student government.

But now the picture has changed, and students can benefit from the services of people who are genuinely interested in representing the student body.

Feldstein said he began the interviews to create "a broader base of interest" for student government. He did not want to make all the appointments from people he knew personally, he said, and did not want to rely on others who might just recommend fraternity brothers and good friends.

Feldstein is to be congratulated for instituting and carrying out the interview program. Student government, and the University as a whole, should reflect the benefits of the new system.

Railroads

An American Way of Life Is Vanishing

By ARTHUR EDSON and J. M. ROBERTS

WASHINGTON (AP) — To anyone brought up in a railroad town, the blackest news from the nation's capital hasn't been the misfortunes of Sherman Adams or even the perils of Quemoy.

No, it was a prosaic little item which predicted that, except for commuter trains, the last passenger coach would go out of business by 1970.

No passenger trains? What kind of a transportation world is this?

Everyone knew the old patient was ailing, of course. Each fiscal report had said that passenger travel was going down, down, down.

Now has come the final, chilling diagnosis, by Howard Bosmer, an examiner for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

He said that not since 1890 have railroads carried as few passengers as they did last year. And Bosmer predicted that, barring a railroad miracle, the last sleeper and parlor car would disappear by 1965 and the last inter-city passenger coach would go by 1970.

Along with love and the moon and June and America's rivers, there are enough songs about the trains, and the tracks and the men who drove them, to swell an album into a library.

Casey Jones, Old 97 and that slow train through Arkansas, the men who finagled millions of dollars worth of rights-of-way and the men who drove the steel and the golden spikes once stood for the spirit of onrushing America. They had a glamour not even attained by "The Chief."

It was a train which bore the casket of Abraham Lincoln back through New York and Albany and along the shining lakes to Springfield, while throngs of Americans, literally lined tracks to express a sorrow seldom felt before in America.

There was the General, the train the Confederates stole from the Federals in Georgia for a brief hour of track-wrecking which became a Civil War saga.

Oh, there have been so many trains. Wrapping a continent into a package where there might have been Balkanization.

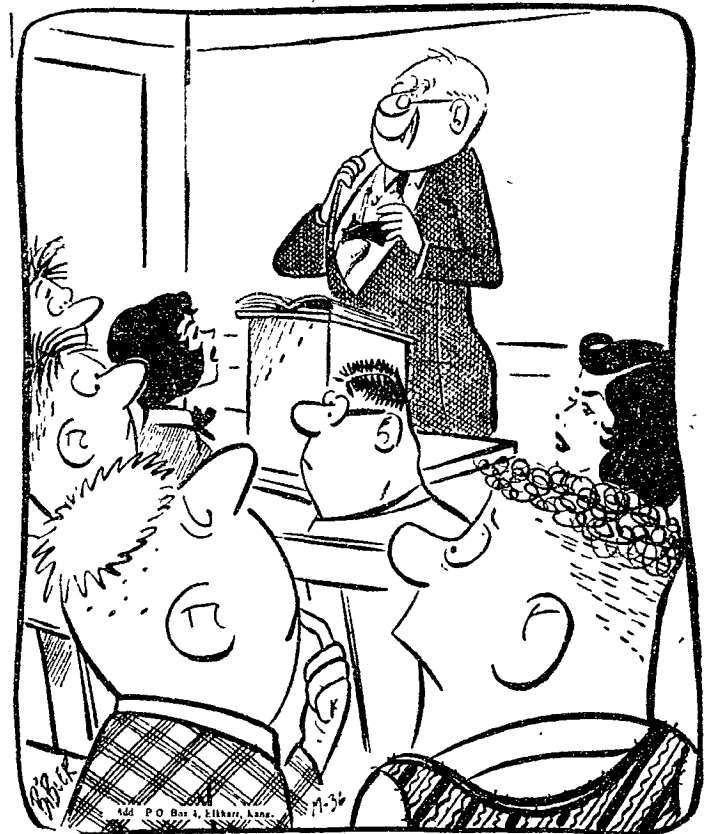
They carried cheering men through cheering throngs to the wars of 1898 and 1917, and slipped silently through worried days and nights to secrecy-shrouded ports of embarkation for World War II.

They served as hosts who introduced Western Americans to Southern and Eastern Americans. They made a vast contribution to the whole character of the nation.

Well, the automobile, which is more convenient, and the airplane, which is faster, have done their dirty work, bringing this tribute—and this confession.

It has been years since I have been on a train. And it's a sorry business for an old passenger train lover to have to admit that he, too, helped kill it.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Biber



"I've waited for five years for someone to ask me that question."

top of the mall

In Memoriam: A Lost Weekend

by Lynn Ward

With little fanfare another Penn State tradition is slipping away from the students. The world will little note nor long remember Penn weekends.

But students who attended them will, to say nothing of the alumni. Penn weekends and their many phases of

entertainment have long been a topic of conversation among graduates, whenever and wherever they meet.

Students have anticipated Penn-Penn State weekends 47 times. We met Penn for the first time in 1890.

Freshmen may ask why upperclassmen cling so desperately to a "silly old" football weekend—particularly when it's practically impossible to park closer than three miles from the stadium and the hot dogs are generally cold when the vendor reaches your seats in Row X of the fourth deck.

Don't let anyone fool you. This isn't what the old grads talk about when they reminisce about Penn weekends.

It's the extra things concerned with the weekend that are long remembered. Like the time when some 35 members of a Penn State fraternity and their dates entered one of the downtown Philadelphia hotels with the intention of going up to the suite they had reserved. Well, they thought someone

had reserved it. But it was one of those... "Well, I thought you had phoned in the reservation."

"Me? You said you were..." So these celebrating Staters (we won the game that year) diffused into other parties in the town.

It's amazing, too, what college students will go through for a football weekend away from campus. They will leave, six or seven deep in a car, with no idea in the world where they will stay once they hit the City of Brotherly Love. But they generally don't have much trouble.

After they have investigated the party situation Friday night (and it's really more into Saturday morning), one of the happy little group from Penn State will remember that his roommate of three years ago lives somewhere in the suburbs. A telephone book with an address solves his immediate problem.

The rest of the weekend is a series of "do-you-know" games. These generally gain them admittance to the Penn fraternity parties, and what more could they ask for!

The unfortunate classes for the next five years or more won't share this unique privilege of experiencing a Penn weekend. A true experience.



WARD

Gazette

TODAY

- Alpha Nu, 7 p.m., 214 HUB
Agricultural Extension, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 213 HUB
Artists' Series, New York Pro Musica, 8:30 p.m., Schwab Auditorium
Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
Hillel Sabbath Eve Services, 8 p.m., Hillel Foundation
Hub-za-poppin, 7:30 p.m., HUB Assembly Hall
Lutheran Student Association picnic, 5:30 p.m., Lutheran Center
Penn State Bible Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 214 Boucke
Pennsylvania Council of English Teachers, 6 p.m., 212 HUB
State Future Farmers of America, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB
Wesley Foundation Fun Night, 8 p.m., Wesley Foundation

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

- Sandra Biber, Marilyn Boote, James Broit, Ronald Budd, Barbara Carney, Gerald Cooper, Virginia Dean, William Eden, Jerry Ferkett, Charles Guzy, Joan Hamilton, Jean Holcombe, Eva Kats, James Liberto, Francis McGowan, Robert Moyer, Richard Pizossi, Alice Schwartz, Barbara Tomasic, John Uhrich, Michael Waxman, Susan Perle

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