

Editorial Opinion

Quoting the University

Students tried to get a half-holiday last year. They were told they were too late, that it was almost impossible to rearrange the University calendar to fit in a half-holiday.

This year students thought they could get a half-holiday for 1956-60 since they made their request in plenty of time.

But this time they were told they must hold their request until they could justify the half-holiday. It was suggested to the students by the University Senate's Committee on Calendar that they would have to list their reasons and justifications for a half-holiday.

Really, there is only one justification, and it is a reason intrinsic in an official University statement of policy made in the 1958-59 Catalog.

On page 96 of the 1958-59 Catalog are listed four reasons for the existence of intercollegiate athletics. The last three of these reasons deal with the advantages to be realized by the athlete himself, advantages such as professional training, increased body control and the other advantages of practice in athletic endeavor.

The first reason given on page 96 is: "To foster esprit de corps among the general student body, and to provide constructive recreation for the spectator, and a significant source of vicarious personal expression for the individual student."

We concur wholeheartedly. This is indeed the reason for intercollegiate athletics. And we can justify athletics, even athletic scholarships, on the basis of this well-worded reason.

For esprit de corps is invaluable to a university, both for student morale and for building a strong and loyal alumni.

But how do we cash in on all this esprit de corps and vicarious expression over the radio. Oh, of course, there is a lot of excitement in hearing and reading about the Lions' football games.

But no one can deny that the maximum, and we even maintain the barest minimum, of esprit de corps comes only when we sit in the stands of, say, Penn or Army or West Virginia, and feel the interchange of support and encouragement between the Lions and their fans.

But how can we go to even one of these games if we have Saturday classes, and we do. Some students cut to get to the games. Should they have to?

Thorough—and Thrifty

All-University Cabinet Thursday night approved plans for the construction of a new Mall bulletin board after hearing one of the most comprehensive and detailed reports in the history of local student government.

The report, given by Agriculture Student Council President Robert LaBar, covered with admirable thoroughness every detail of the project from the type of wood to be used to a method of preventing rotting at the base of the bulletin board.

LaBar estimated the cost of the board at \$175—nearly \$300 less than an estimate given by the Department of Physical Plant!

If more student leaders were as conscientious about their duties as LaBar was in this case, student government might be saved time, money and confusion in many of its projects.

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 5, 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

ROBERT FRANKLIN Editor

FRANK VOJTASEK Business Manager

City Editor, David Fineman; Managing Editor, Richard Drayne; Sports Editor, Lou Prato; Associate Sports Editor, Matt Matthews; 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 Barger; Personnel Mgr., Mickey Nash; Classified Ad Mgr., Rae Waters; Circulation Mgr., Mary Anne First and Murray Simon; Research and Records Mgr., Mary Herbein; Office Secretary, Myla Johnson.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Copy Editor, Bill Jaffe; Wire Editor, Cathy Fleck; Assistants, Betsy Anderson, Elaine Miele, Jim Scerrill, Joyce Rubenstein, Janet Beakhan, Susan Hills, Joan Foss, Gerrie Sermattel, Betsy Muley.

Music

Fans Predict 'Stereo' May Sweep Nation

By SAM DAWSON Business News Analyst

NEW YORK (AP)—The music box which has made such a remarkable comeback since the war today has a fast growing baby brother.

Stereophonic sound, its fans declare, will sweep the country the way high fidelity and the long-playing records did before it. What this may do to the already established older forms of the phonographic industry no one is quite sure yet.

Stereo is a new starter but its enthusiasts think sales soon will reach the 500,000-sets-a-year mark, or about one-tenth of the total phonograph business.

The latest entry into the home music field is the device that makes you think the sound is coming from all sides of the living room, instead of just from the box in front of you.

With some effort and a bit of cash your present hi-fi equipment can be enlarged to take on stereo. Or you can start from scratch and buy a new stereo set outright.

For records you now have about 500 titles from which to choose—or just about one month's production of long playing records. But more stereo records are being rushed to market.

The older manual records—millions of them—can't give you stereophonic sound and the phonograph industry wouldn't be too happy to see this investment of theirs outdated. The oldies can be played on a stereo set but they go on sounding manual.

Stereo calls for new records, new needles and a different cartridge, for two amplifiers and two speakers.

On the standard-long playing record sound waves are recorded on one side of the groove. On a stereo record, one part of the sound is recorded on one side of the groove and the other part of the sound on the opposite side.

The needles pick up both parts of the sound and the needle and cartridge separates them and sends them to different amplifiers and different speakers.

The stereo needle has to be even smaller than the one used for long-playing records and must be rounded to keep it from cutting into the record.

Gazette

TODAY

- Belles Lettres Club, 7:30 p.m., Simmons Lounge
Bryan Green Committee, 8 p.m., 217 HUB
Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
Collegian Promotion, 6:45 p.m., 215 Willard
Dancing Class, 4:45 to 6:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom
Education Student Council, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Elections Committee, 6:30 p.m., 214 HUB
Freshman Council, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB
Freshman Regulations Board, 12:30 p.m., 212 HUB
Froth Art Staff, 7 p.m., HUB
Gamma Sigma Sigma, 6:45 p.m., HUB Auditorium
Home Economics Club, 7 p.m., Home Economics Living Center
Intercollegiate Conference on Government, 7:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Lion Club Committee, 8:00 p.m., 213 HUB
Monitor, 6:45 p.m., 213 HUB
Navy Recruiting, 10 a.m., ground floor, HUB
Neu Bayricher Schuhplattler, 7 p.m., 2 White
Outing Club, 7 p.m., HUB Assembly Room
Scabbard and Blade, 7 p.m., 218 HUB
Scrolls, 4 p.m., 212 HUB
Simchas Torah Services, 10 a.m., Hillel Foundation
UBA, 1:30 p.m., HUB Cardroom
WSGA Judicial, 5:15 p.m., 217 HUB

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Arthur Belles, John Bennett, Burton Golden, Shirley Greenbaum, Harry Hager, Philip Johnson, Forrest Leer, Wanda Knapp, Joseph Kunaman, Emma Longenecker, Kristin Love, Leah Melnik, James Mitchell, Andrew Moconyl, Michael Ralser, Beverly Rodgers, Clayton Savercool, Patricia Shockey, Marilyn Trimble, Robert Wall, Albert Wenrick.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



Words to Spare

Trial Solves Case Of Fallen Bedstead

By Dick Drayne

"I solemnly swear that I did not throw an iron bedstead from the window of room 514, or any room adjoining, and that I did not aid or assist any person or persons in so doing, and that I was not a party to any plan for so doing, and was not aware of any student or students either in the college or preparatory department planning to do so."

So begins the oath taken by witnesses in The Great Iron Bedstead Trial.

The dramatic trial was held by a group of students in 1867, and the incident referred to in the oath occurred in Old Main, then a dormitory.

The purpose of the trial was to determine who was guilty of dropping the iron bedstead out of the fifth floor window so that the guilty parties could be turned over to the faculty for proper action. The oath plus the notes taken at the trial are on file in the Penn State collection of the Fred Lewis Pattee Library.

The testimony given at this tense moment in the University's early history is highly involved, filled with reports of people running up and down halls and confusion as to just who was in what room at what time and why.

The name of one character pops up several times in the testimony, indicating that he appeared in many rooms on several floors during the night. But the student was only looking for a spare bureau drawer, according to the witnesses, and so was not accused of any part in the bedstead episode. Whether he found the drawer was never revealed.

In all, more than 20 students were under oath during the proceedings. One student, however, stood on his pride and refused to take the oath. He agreed to testify, but claimed he had given his word on the truth of his testimony, and that his word was "as good as an oath."

The lengthy oath, incidentally, continues in the same flowery legal vein as its opening sentence, and ends "And as I have sworn honestly and truly, so may God help me."

The trial resulted in two students being named as guilty of the prank, and their names were turned over to the faculty. What finally happened to them is not on record, but judging from the solemnity of the trial the penalty was probably rather stiff.

The Great Iron Bedstead, incidentally, seems to have marked the first appearance on campus of anything which might be called student government.

No formal governmental system was set up until many years later, but the trial result seems to have been the first official student decision and so might qualify as the premature birth of student government.

We wonder how All-University Cabinet would handle the incident today.

