

Editorial Opinion

Veterans' PhysEd: Compound Confusion

A vague and ill-defined committee report recommending that physical education be kept compulsory for veterans will go before the University Senate next Thursday.

The recommendation to continue the requirement for veterans, a report from the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, is in answer to All-University Cabinet's recommendation that phys ed be voluntary for veterans.

The committee report says "the fact of military service is irrelevant to the question, though the facts of physical disability, greater maturity, greater age that sometimes accompany military service may not be."

The report continues that if these "latter facts" are established in individual instances, they come under Item T-1 of Senate Regulations for Undergraduate Students.

This item says only that, where the case is not one of physical disability, a "cogent reason" must be given for exemption from voluntary physical education.

The Senate committee recommendation thus indicates quite clearly that "greater age" and "greater maturity" may possibly be considered "cogent reasons."

It follows that any veteran who feels he possesses either or both of these qualifications should be able to appeal physical education requirements and expect a fair hearing of his case.

Now, since the committee would set up these two qualities as possible grounds for appeal, we wonder why it did not thing to clarify them.

What, for instance, is "greater age"?

Since the question of age can be neither relative nor questionable, it can be defined clearly. A certain age should therefore be set as grounds for appeal.

And what is "greater maturity"?

Are there to be definite standards set up to define maturity . . . and if so, won't they have to be set up by psychologists? Or, if maturity is to be a matter of personal judgment, who is going to do the judging?

The man who is to judge maturity should, naturally, be the most mature man available—and who will choose him?

"Greater age" and "greater maturity" almost invariably result from two years of military service. Who would say that the average freshman who is a veteran is not both older and more mature than the average freshman coming directly from high school?

The difference is almost invariably obvious . . . and exceptions are so few as to be inconsequential in the forming of a general policy.

Also, consider the administrative nightmare which might well be the result of adopting this recommendation. Any veteran who considered himself of "greater age" or "greater maturity" could appeal his phys ed requirement—and surely a great number would be willing to give it a try, since they would have nothing to lose.

The hearings of these cases could easily become an absurdity. Judging individually on the maturity of all those who appealed could reach unbelievable heights of complexity, turning the whole idea into a philosophical farce.

The Senate should vote down the committee's recommendation and substitute for it exemption from physical education for veterans.

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Washington

Sticky Situation Found in Mail

By ARTHUR EDSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield has received the bad news on the sorghum situation in the Culloden, W.Va., Post Office.

It's a mess.

The problem was brought up by Dr. E. E. Dudding, 97, a local sorghum lover, who wrote Summerfield to protest what had happened to a can of the stuff he had mailed to a friend.

Sorghum is a rich, hearty concoction, especially delightful on cornbread.

Dudding got to talking with a friend, S. I. McGinnis, learned that the fine art of sorghum-making had almost died out around Culloden, and, locating a cache of sorghum near here, decided to mail him some.

The letter from McGinnis tells the lamentable story:

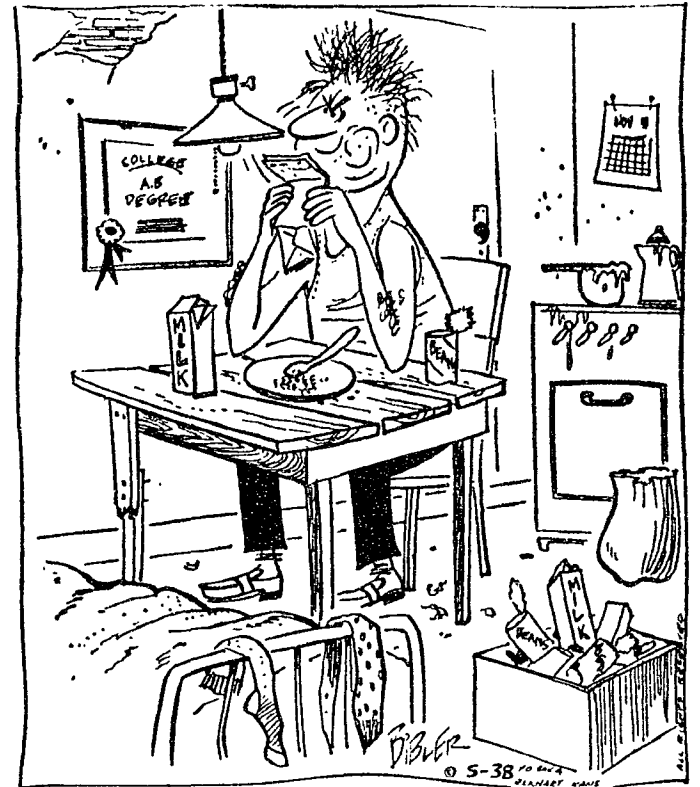
"The can of sorghum arrived this morning at the post office. The contents was all gone. The lid had come off and the sorghum was all over the mail. The mail carrier said he would make out a report.

"Paul Soward, postmaster, was out of town today. They had a time this morning, licking sorghum off of the mail, ha, ha."

Well, Dudding hustled the bad news off to Summerfield, thoughtfully including his own diagnosis of the problem. He figures that the railroads have cut out local stops, that the mail is tossed from trains doing 60 miles an hour, and that this is no way to treat sorghum.

Well, Dudding is a hard man to lick. He has just mailed another can of sorghum to McGinnis. It would cut down on the correspondence, and keep a much tidier mail sack, if the engineer would just slow down when he gets to Culloden.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"—Yes, Ed, I wish I had been able to get a college education. It gives a man that certain something that sets him above and apart from the average—"

Take It or Leave It

Smooching Lines—A Health Menace

by Pat Evans

Kansas State College students got their "smooch lines" back.

The kissing lines had been a college tradition, modeled after the time-honored custom of kissing the bride after a wedding.

Kansas students made this "best wishes" kiss a group activity and extended the custom to cover pinnings and engagements as well as weddings.

But the student tradition came to an abrupt halt during last fall's flu epidemic. The director of the student health clinic issued an edict banning all smooch lines. And the associate dean of women backed him up.

What's more, she reimposed the restriction this year. Smooch lines are "a bad health practice," she said.

We quote from her statement:

"Trenchmouth and respiratory diseases can be spread to a great many people during one smooch line. We're not looking for another flu epidemic, but during the winter, colds are always with us."

A committee of coeds went to battle against the ban, and were successful in having the ruling reversed. The new policy:

"Smooch lines may occur during times of good health at the discretion of the individuals present."

Kansas State's temporary ban on organized kissing attracted a t t e n t i o n throughout collegiate circles. Support for smooch lines came from the college's sister institution, Kansas University. (We wonder if Penn students would

rally to support Penn State under similar circumstances.)

A reporter from KU's student newspaper interviewed the university's director of student health on the kissing ban at Kansas State. Some of his comments follow:

"The ban should be nearly impossible to enforce—you can vaccinate against a flu epidemic, but you can't vaccinate against kissing."

Colleges and universities should not try to control kissing, he said. "It's as natural as nature."

He admitted that smooch lines would be contact points for spreading flu viruses and colds. "But who is going to supervise the thousands of students who participate in group activities of this kind?" he asked.

"Two people drinking out of the same bottle or sharing a cigarette spread as many germs as if they were kissing. An unprotected cough or sneeze is more dangerous than any of these forms of direct contact. A sneeze or cough spreads a cold more widely."

The health director said kissing continues in private even when group necking is outlawed. "Nature should be left to run its course," he said.

But he did have one word of caution—"Students should be careful who they kiss."

Gazette

TODAY

Ag Hill Party Committee, 6:30 p.m., 212 HUB

AIM Talent Show, 7 p.m., HUB assembly hall

Air Force Drill Team, 8 p.m., HUB ballroom

Air Force Glee Club, 3 p.m., HUB assembly hall

All-University Cabinet, 7 p.m., 203 HUB

Bloodmobile Registration, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., HUB lounge

Botany and Plant Pathology Seminar Lecture Series, 4 p.m., Buckhout Lab

Bridge Club, 6:30 p.m., HUB card-room

Chimes, 4 p.m., 212 HUB

Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB

Christian Science Organization, 7 p.m., 212 Chapel

Dancing Class, 4:15 and 6:30 p.m., HUB ballroom

Financing Club, 7:30 p.m., Kappa Sigma

Froth advertising staff, 7 p.m., 217 HUB

German Club, 7:30 p.m., Home Ec Living Center

Hillel Foundation, Beginner's Hebrew, 6:45 p.m., Foundation;

"Introduction to Judaism," 7 p.m., Foundation;

"Ultimate Goals of Religion," Series, 8 p.m., Foundation

IFCPA, 4 p.m., 218 HUB

Iota Lambda Sigma, 7:30 p.m., 218 HUB

News and Views, 6:45 p.m., 14 Home Ec

Philosophy Lecture Series, The Very Rev. Martain Cyril D'Arcy, 8 p.m., 110 EE

Pi Gamma Alpha, 6:30 p.m., 201 Temp

Society for Advancement of Management, 7:30 p.m., Theta Chi

UCA, 2 p.m., HUB assembly hall

University Party publicity committee, 7 p.m., 213 HUB

WRA Bridge Club for Beginners, 7 p.m., White Building

WRA Officials Club, 6:30 p.m., 2 White

WPGA Publications Committee, 6:30 p.m., McElwain study lounge

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

John Aber, Charles Annett, Jean Benninger, William Bianco, Ann Cooke, Bruce Gilmore, Larry Herring, Kenneth Link, Maxine Lundy, Geraldine Markos, James Marsh, Robert Miller, Michael Nagel, Robert Salem, John Simplair, Deborah Sinberg, Nadine Wax, Albert Wenrick, William Wilson, John Zelina.

