

Editorial Opinion

Overstepping Freedom

Freedom of thought and belief is one of the bases of American heritage, but now this freedom is being questioned among college and university students throughout the nation.

Americans decry the terrible conditions under Communist regimes where the people's beliefs are suppressed. Yet on a small, but quite noticeable, scale, the same thing is happening on our campus today.

Needy students who must rely on loans from the government to finish college cannot obtain these funds unless they sign an affidavit concerning their beliefs and affiliations.

Under the National Defense Education Act, a student must sign an affidavit swearing he will support and defend the constitution and laws of the United States. He also must swear that he does not believe in, is not a member of or does not support any organization that believes in or teaches the overthrow of the government by force, violence or any illegal or unconstitutional methods.

We find it very objectionable to be required to sign any document in which we must swear to believe in or not to believe in any idea. This is a definite reversal of the aforementioned freedoms to which Americans cling.

But why shouldn't any good American swear his allegiance and belief in our government? This is not the point. It is rather, what would keep anyone, especially a Communist agent, from signing the same oath?

Enforcement of this oath is almost impossible. Where can the life of belief be drawn? Can a student believe in overthrow of the government as a conviction about the future without advocating its overthrow?

The University administration should join the growing line of educational institutions opposing the oath. But, it should not withdraw from the program. As a state university, it does not have sufficient income to provide loans for all its needy students.

Fair 'Holiday' Plan

Thousands of students are hoping that the University Senate will consider and pass today a recommendation creating a half-holiday for the Liberty Bowl game.

But those same people are also wondering if the price they will be forced to pay for such a holiday will come from much-needed final exam study time.

A half-holiday is necessary if the University is to do its part to assure a good representation of students at the game, but everyone agrees there must be a better way to work out the details.

One of the fairest plans suggested has been that classes missed during a half-holiday be made up on an evening or evenings following the Christmas vacation. The responsibility for scheduling these classes would rest with the individual professor. He and his class could decide in advance on the best night for everyone, and no final exam study time would be lost.

A student who would otherwise be faced with the loss of an entire morning from his study time, might be able to schedule his classes for an hour on each of several evenings—an hour he might usually spend just walking back from class and waiting for dinner to begin.

Let's see a large turnout at the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 19. Let's see a half-holiday to insure that turnout. But let's also see a fair solution to the problem of making up classes.

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55 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Letters

Nittany Men Want Answers On Bowl Game

TO THE EDITOR: The Pennsylvania State University administration has accepted an opportunity to send the great Nittany Lions to the newest of our national gridiron classics, the Liberty Bowl. The Penn State students are not yet ready to support their team by attending the game since they have been given so little information concerning this great event which means so much to everyone.

Many students are at a loss for answers to the following vital questions. First, will our dismissal from classes be rescheduled in order to allow enough time for the trip to Philadelphia, or will we be forced to rush to our destination and possibly encounter poor weather conditions and driving hurriedly through congested traffic?

Second, the participation of the Penn State Blue Band in the activity should have come automatically with acceptance to the bowl bid. Why is the administration delaying their decision as to whether or not the Blue Band will make the trip?

It has been two weeks since the bowl bid was unofficially accepted. Doesn't the administration realize that the students must be better informed on these situations prior to the opening of ticket sales?

Penn State has visions of future "big-time" football. What does the administration foresee? As the situation concerning the Liberty Bowl stands now, the administration seems to have shown that they are not capable of handling a "big-time" football business.

The insecurity of this situation can be carried beyond the administration at Penn State. Suppose Alabama had not chosen to oppose the Nittany Lions. Who would have come to the rescue? Coach Lawrence and his fighting cabinet?

—Men of Nittany 40

Gazette

- TODAY**
- Air Drill Team, 6:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
 - Air Force Glee Club, 8 p.m., HUB assembly room
 - Alpha Phi Alpha, 7:30 p.m., 218 HUB
 - American Rocket Society, 7:30 p.m., 105 Mechanical Engineering Block and Bridle Club, 7:30 p.m., 208 Armsby
 - Bridge Club, 6:30 p.m., HUB cardroom
 - Campus Assembly, 7 p.m., 218 HUB
 - Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
 - Check Cashing Agency Committee, 8:30 p.m., 212 HUB
 - Eastern Orthodox Society, 7 p.m., 321 Boucke
 - Freshman Tea Committee, 6 p.m., 218 HUB
 - Junior Panhellenic Council, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
 - Mathematics Colloquium, Arshag Hajian, Yale University mathematician, 3:15 p.m., 12 Sparks
 - Mike and Rostrum, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB
 - News and Views, 7 p.m., 18 Home Economics
 - Residence Council of Student Christian Association, 6:30 p.m., 213 HUB
 - SGA Assembly, 7 p.m., 214 HUB

HOSPITAL

Adiel Balam, Charles Bastress, Lawrence Reichley, Fred Bender, Elaine Caplan, Elizabeth Carnwath, Diane Derrickson, Bernard Droney, Shirley Fowler, Larry Garlock, Dale Habel, Joyce Huffer, Judith Kahn, Kathryn Kean, Elyse Klein, Sonia Kozlar, Paul Krieger, Norlene Lantz, Ruth Luff, Barbara Pond, Ronald Rose, Nancy Schiffman, Richard Smith, Robert Sponeybarger, Andrew Stynchula, Judith Wadleigh, Ralph Weis.

ROTC Unit Picks Outstanding Cadets

Five seniors enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program have been designated Distinguished Military Cadets.

They are Fitzwilliam King, William King, Albert Piccirillo, Ronald Resh and Karl Tremba.

Col. Orin H. Rigley Jr., professor of air science, explained that Distinguished Military Cadets are chosen on the basis of outstanding leadership and high scholastic standing. They may compete for regular commissions in the Air Force.

Chemistry Prof Studies Structure of Crystals

Dr. Mary L. Willard, professor of chemistry, is studying the structure of crystals to find methods of characterizing the sensitivity of explosives.

The project is supported by a \$15,000 grant from the Office of Naval Research.

Little Man on Campus

by Dick Bibler



"WELL, LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINALLY GOT THAT 'POP' QUIZ GRADED & READY TO HAND BACK."

Letters

Ex-Serviceman Favors Oath

TO THE EDITOR: Those who don't think my 11 years of service in the Navy qualifies me to discuss patriotism, love of country, or of the service to the nation, kindly read someone else's drivel.

For several weeks, what amounts to a collection of misguided kiddies, worshippers, of the trivial, and pseudo-intellectuals have been moaning the loyalty oath required of persons requesting government loans.

How anyone with even a grain of loyalty could possibly disagree with a requirement of this sort, or wouldn't be in favor of more stringent regulations to protect what turns out to be their interests completely escapes me.

This government of ours isn't in business to serve individual whims exclusively. Nor can it

be expected to serve those who through their idiotic interpretation of an oath, feel that they are being mistrusted as citizens.

This misinterpretation is equally as silly as thinking that the standing and removing of hats at the playing of the National Anthem is degrading to an individual. Maybe we should also ban the Pledge of Allegiance in grade schools?

To my way of thinking, a loyalty oath should be signed with no reservations by anyone who is asked. Maybe if a few shells came their way, or if they had either relatives or friends buried on Iwo or in Korea, the misguided kiddies on this campus might see the light. Those who are buried over there signed loyalty oaths... then set out to prove it.

—Richard Johnstone, '63

Senior Hits Carter Views

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to make a few comments in regards to Mr. Carter's letter in yesterday's Collegian. I agree with him on one point only—he is a needy student, but it is not money that he needs. He's sadly lacking in brainpower and original thinking which he should have acquired in becoming a graduate student.

He couldn't possibly need money very badly if he chooses to pay interest on another loan rather than proclaim his loyalty to the country which gives him the opportunity to freely voice his opinion in a newspaper.

He states that it is absurd to think a subversive person

would be inhibited by a loyalty oath requirement. This being the case, we might as well do away with all contracts, legal documents, etc., since a dishonest person also would not be inhibited by signing his name to such a document.

If he is not already a vet what is he going to do when he is inducted and asked to raise his right hand and take an oath of allegiance to his country? Being the strong individual he is, he will probably refuse to do so and join some other country's army which doesn't have such "stiff" requirements.

Mr. Carter, you're out of it.

—Richard Gerhart, '60

