

## Editorial Opinion

# Don't Think--It's Compulsory

The University Senate, despite all attempts to abolish compulsory ROTC, reinforced the present compulsory program by dropping the 23 year age limit and making it official that students physically unable to take drill must still take ROTC courses.

There appear to be just three arguments for compulsory ROTC. None of them are really valid.

One argument for compulsory ROTC is the citizenship training it gives students. Instead of making better citizens, most compulsory programs seem to antagonize many students. Antagonistic students coupled with inexperienced or inadequate instructors make the whole program seem just a little ridiculous from the "citizenship" standpoint.

We also think that perhaps we might as well throw many traditional democratic ideals out the window if college students must be indoctrinated in the American way of life. This is inconsistent with an old idea that democracy by nature can withstand the force of contrary ideas and principles.

Make all students take more liberal arts subjects but never make them take courses which tell them democracy is great and appreciate it or else.

We are not imbeciles yet. We are not illiterate masses. If we take the proper courses in political science, philosophy, etc., we can figure out that democracy is best and that this is a great country and that we have certain duties to it. Democracy cannot function if the population is made up of unthinking followers.

The second argument, used by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy in its recommendation to retain compulsory ROTC here, is that "the military services regard the program as essential to the na-

tional military establishment." This is simply not true.

In a policy statement issued by assistant secretary of defense, Charles Finucane, the Defense Department said compulsory basic ROTC is not needed to meet quality standards in the military services nor is it needed to produce the required number of officers. The statement definitely favored freedom of choice in ROTC programs.

A third argument, although it is rarely openly admitted, is that it is "politically" wise to retain compulsory ROTC. Ultra-conservatives and Communist-hunters often prevail in conservative state legislatures which will give more money to "patriotic" universities.

Some university administrators may have political aspirations and the abolition of compulsory ROTC would not make them too popular with patriotic alumni, state legislatures and the American Legion.

The wealthy schools and schools with high standing like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology can afford to stand up in the face of these forces but many state universities lack the courage. And it is a matter of courage because there must be a way to lick this problem.

If, however, most universities bow down to the flag-wavers and American Legion lobbies, the American ideal of democracy is really in danger. A university must be the ground on which the balance of reason and understanding, the heart of a democracy, is established.

It is the future McCarthy's, other such "patriots" and those who seek to stamp out ideas contrary to their own who do more to endanger traditional democratic ideals than all the anti-ROTCer's, liberals and socialists put together.

Democracy is a precious thing and therefore expensive. It demands constant, intelligent vigilance and sound reasoning.

## Letters

# TOCS 'T' Not Temporary

**TO THE EDITOR:** In a fine editorial in the Jan. 5 issue of Collegian the question was raised whether TOCS is a temporary phenomenon at Penn State, or—by implication—whether that organization will be of service in the development of a better University.

TOCS arose spontaneously because of a real need for expression of faculty opinion. Any association of scholars should observe scholarly principles.

In a letter to the Centre Daily Times Jan. 7 H. J. Fishbein stated his alarm at a statement in the "Bookworm" column of that newspaper: "... nobody can rise from instructor to eminence in the jealous jungle of Penn State..."; and Fishbein called on TOCS to inquire into a situation which could inspire such a statement.

What can be expected of TOCS, in this respect and in others?

In the first place, the "Bookworm" statement quoted by Fishbein does not apply in the slightest in the departments which I know best at Penn State: Physics or Chemistry. It cannot possibly apply any longer in the "Bookworm's" former department, the new head of which is one of the ablest, fairest scholars of whom I know.

Let us give credit where it is due. Otherwise, why should anyone take our criticism ser-

iously? Recent appointments to department headships at Penn State have in the main been examples of great wisdom and discretion on the part of the central administration.

Where errors in appointments may have been made, I suspect that college members have pressured a weak dean into a position which was difficult for the central administration to counteract.

The department is the key unit in a university—particularly in ours, where college structures are anomalous. Every member of a university should insist as a scholarly responsibility that his own department head and dean should be persons of scholarship, competence and fairness.

My own department head is absolutely unexcelled in these respects in any university I know.

Where a department head is weak or otherwise inadequate, or a dean—and such conditions of course exist—then members of department concerned must urge replacement, individually or jointly. This is an absolute duty of a university man.

But I have no right to urge any change in a department head or dean outside of my own department or college; and TOCS as an organization has no such responsibility.

Further, it is the responsibility of every scholar to insist

that the central university administration is competent, scholarly, understanding of and devoted to highest aims and traditions of a university.

The influence which TOCS should and can have within Penn State should be viewed in terms of these responsibilities.

Members of TOCS can encourage a scholarly atmosphere throughout the university; but outside of their own departments, scholars must exert influence vertically in the administrative structure, not horizontally.

Among the activities in which TOCS can engage is the development of a university-wide forum for faculty opinion. This would provide many benefits, only one of which would be to encourage individual faculty members to air problems within their own areas of responsibility. Such a forum is being arranged.

The purpose of TOCS as an organization is not to war with the central administration, or to interfere in departmental problems. It is to clarify the purposes of the University, and to educate its members and the entire community—of which the student body is of course an essential part—to the end that this institution of itself achieves greatness.

It can be done.  
—Ray Pepinsky  
Research Professor of Physics  
Director, The Groth Institute



## Letters

# Let Your Voices Be Heard

**TO THE EDITOR:** Quoting from an editorial in the December issue of Life Magazine: "That all men are responsible for each other's crimes is a theological proposition. Its political corollary is . . . every citizen is responsible for all the injustice of his community."

These words are not only an indictment of the American community in general but apply specifically to the residents of the State College Area. This indictment not only applies to townspeople but to students as well.

We the students who are the future leaders of our country should be the most concerned with seeing that the injustices of our community do not carry over into the next generation.

In the recent past the students have been found generally apathetic toward any efforts to wipe out the injustices practiced in the State College community. Cries have been heard: "It is not my fight," "State College is not our community," and "Don't make waves." But even worse, the majority are not even concerned enough to comment.

The fight against injustice

and prejudice is not an easy one. It is not the type of fight which can be started next year or only in certain places. In order to fight injustice we must erase it whenever and wherever it appears.

The time has come for the students to let their voices be heard. It is not necessary for students to riot to let the world know that they are opposed to the wrongs of their society.

There is room for people in both active and inactive roles in this fight. Whether you join one of our organizations which are working in this field on the local scene or just talk about it to your friends let your voices be heard. Express your views in letters to the Collegian or similar publications.

Let the town know that students at Penn State can think and express opinions on the important issues of our day.

Not everyone is capable of direct action on issues that concern them but this should not be any excuse for hiding one's head in the sand and hoping that, if they are ignored long enough, the problems of our time will disappear.

—Aaron Konstem  
DARE President

## GAZETTE

Today	
AIM, 8 p.m., 203 HUB	Quarterdeck Society, 7:30 p.m., Phi Mu Delta
AWS Judicial, noon, 212 HUB	Special Orientation Committee, 9 p.m., 212 HUB
Biological Sciences Seminar, 4:15 p.m., 109 Armsby	Sports Car Club, 8 p.m., 216 HUB
Camera Club, 7:30 p.m., 212-213 HUB	TIM movies, 12:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall
Chem Phys Student Council, 6:45 p.m., 214-215 HUB	Women's Chorus, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall
Chess Club, 7 p.m., HUB cardroom	HOSPITAL
Flying Club, 8 p.m., 214, 215 HUB	Blair Bice, William L. Brown, Judith Ann Davis, George Dennison, Susan Florence, Thomas Freeland, John Gander, David Greenblatt, Roberta Gusa, Robert Hauck, James Lucene, Rosalie Isaacson, Elaine Lotito, Leonard Miller, Eleanor Morris, Robert Myers, George Parker, Mary Jane Van Gilder, Judith Weiser, Carole Wentz and Ursula Wittenbrock.
Graduate Mining Seminar, 3:20 p.m., 304 M	
IV Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 213 HUB	
Pi Lambda Sigma, 7:30 p.m., 218 HUB	
Phi Delta Kappa, 4 p.m., 212 HUB	
Phi Sigma Delta, 9:10 p.m., 212 HUB	
Psychology Colloquia, noon, HUB dining hall A; and 8 p.m. 112 Buckhout	

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