

Editorial Opinion

Policy Redefined

The letter criticizing The Daily Collegian read by SGA President Richard Haber before Assembly Thursday night has caused us to feel that perhaps a redefinition of our policy for editorial comment is necessary.

The letter criticized Collegian for its "negative" editorial comment on the secretive actions of the SGA Reorganization Committee and its chairman. It said that our wanting to present the news when it happened meant that we were jealous of SGA. It accused us of sarcasm in our presentation and biased editorial policy.

We cannot quite understand why a letter criticizing Collegian would be sent to the SGA president. Certainly he could do nothing to correct the situation that the letter criticized.

Had the letter been sent to Collegian, however, it would have been published in the Letters to the Editor column which is maintained specifically for criticism of Collegian or any other group by the readers.

Also the criticism could have been heard by all the students on campus rather than just the select 40 or 50 in the assembly room. Had we then considered the criticism valid, we would have attempted to correct the situation.

But, according to Haber the letter was not signed. This indicates a lack of conviction in the writing or lack of courage to stand up for it on the part of the author.

Some further actions cause us to question whether the letter was in fact written by an anonymous author or by Haber himself.

Haber at first said that the Collegian could have the letter. However, he changed his mind after reading it to the Assembly and said he would "give a copy of the letter to NO ONE." He further requested that the reading of the letter be stricken from the minutes of the Assembly meeting.

If the President had justification for reading the letter, we see no reason why it should be stricken from the minutes. We wonder what prompted his change of heart?

Was this a testimonial to thoughtless leadership that has characterized the SGA executive branch most of the year?

Moreover, the major part of the Assembly meeting devoted to consideration of reorganization seemed to bear up our impression that this case of secrecy and delay combined to prove almost fatal to any intelligent discussion.

In our work on Collegian we acquire a certain callousness to the various pleas we receive for "good publicity." **Collegian is not a publicity organ.**

The criteria for what we print is newsworthiness and truth. We are out, not to do favors for anyone, but to utilize to the fullest the concepts of a free press, interpretation and the right of the people to be informed.

Certainly our editorial on the reorganization fumble was biased to the degree that it reflected only our thinking. But it was clearly headed "Editorial Opinion." We did not try to disguise it, but stood behind it as our considered judgement. Many persons have told us that they share our judgement.

Regardless of what any "anonymous letter writer" thinks, we still feel it was the tardiness of the reorganization report that precipitated a lengthy and senseless discussion on possible extension of the present SGA charter because there is not enough time this spring to revamp the election system.

This loss of face for SGA merely became fuel for those who would rather get rid of student government entirely. It could have been avoided had the Reorganization Committee submitted its report some weeks earlier, or kept the Assembly informed of its progress.

All actions of government bodies come under the scrutiny of the press. Morally, constitutionally, and ethically we feel we have not the right but the duty to comment freely on these matters.

We shall continue to analyze and criticize the actions of SGA, a task which it seems to have completely neglected itself.

The Daily Collegian

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Letters

Frosh Queries SGA Action On New Plan

TO THE EDITOR: Is a tailor-made plan of reorganization being forced down the throats of SGA Assemblymen? In view of the rather questionable procedures being followed and the general lay of the plan itself, I would say yes.

First, a campaign of publicity was launched to the tune that the present student government system will completely shatter with the introduction of the four term plan.

Action must be taken now, within the next three weeks or all is lost, the campaign states. And with the complete acceptance of this concept the assemblymen and the student body are to panic to the extent where any plan will be snapped up.

At this point the SGA Reorganization Committee steps in waving a magic wand in the form of a nicely mimeographed sheet of paper outlining a totally different and in many respects undesirable structure of student government

To remove any taint from the name of the committee, an anonymous letter is read to the assembly discrediting the Collegian for stating that the clandestine measures used in preparing the plan leave much to be desired.

Why is this need for total reorganization so urgent? Why should the job of organizing as a political party before the upcoming Spring Elections be hurled at AWS, TIM, MRC, and IFC?

Certainly it will be several years before the class system at Penn State is made obsolete by the four term plan. Could not this coming year be taken to smooth out a plan based on community living, at the same time giving the organizations involved a chance to adjust their structures to the new role they will be playing?

I believe that this would be the most feasible way of insuring an effective student government in future years and the only way of preventing a form of government that rests in the hands of a few power groups and special interests.

—Dale Harris, '64

Gazette

TODAY

Camp Interviews, 9 a.m., 212 HUB
Chess Team vs. Princeton, 1 p.m., HUB lounge
Club Habana, 8:30 to 12 p.m., HUB ballroom
Eastern Arts Research Committee, 9 to 12 and 2 to 5 p.m., 213 HUB
Inter-American Club, 8 p.m., Conference Center
ISA, 1 p.m., 212 HUB
Sigma Alpha Mu, 9 to 5 p.m., 214 HUB
Student Movie, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly room
University Christian Association Colloquium, 1:45 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel

TOMORROW

Artists Series, 8 p.m., Rec Hall
AWS, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Campus Party, 6:30 p.m., 212 HUB
Chapel Service, 10:55 a.m., Schwab
Chess Club, 2 to 5 p.m., HUB card room
DARE, 3 p.m., Faith Church, second floor lounge
Emerson Society, 7 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel
Grad Student Bridge Club, 7 to 10 p.m., HUB card room
Liberal Party, 6:30 p.m., 121 Sparks
Mt. Nittany Stamp Society, 2 p.m., 217 HUB
Navy Discipline Committee, 2 to 4 p.m., 216 HUB
Newman Club, 7 p.m., 214 HUB
Spring Week, 3 p.m., 216 HUB
Student Movie 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly room
Swedenborgian, 10:45 a.m., 212 HUB
Thespians, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 217 HUB
University Party, 6:30 p.m., 119 Osmond Lab

MONDAY

Ag Econ, 8 to 5 p.m., 218 HUB
Alpha Colony, 6:30 p.m., 218 HUB
Alpha Phi Omega, Exec meetings, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Angel Flight, 7 to 9:30 p.m., 214 and 215 HUB
Bridge Club, 7 to 10 p.m., HUB card room
Circus, 7 p.m., 107 Boucke
College of Education, 4:15 p.m., HUB assembly room
Faculty Luncheon Club, 12 noon, HUB dining room
IFC, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly room
ISA, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
Naval Reserve Research Company 4-4, 7 p.m., 303 Wagner
Placement, 8 to 5 p.m., 208 HUB
State College Color Slide Club, 7:30 a.m., MI auditorium

Smoke Screen

The present and past actions of the SGA Reorganization Committee and its chairman in particular have left SGA, political parties, and probably AWS, MRC and TIM confused about their future roles.

A new constitution was brought before Assembly for the first time Thursday and there is little time to discuss or change it before spring elections.

The situation arose because of the committee's procrastination in drawing up a new constitution or perhaps because of a plan to railroad through the Assembly a constitution drawn up by a select few or a combination of both.

The Daily Collegian had been asking that the activities of the committee, headed by Duane Alexander, be made public so that Assemblymen and other students could discuss it before voting time.

At the Assembly meeting Thursday, an anonymous letter sharply criticizing the Collegian stand was read to the members preceding the discussion of Alexander's report.

Richard Haber, town crier for the occasion, read the letter which he said criticized other aspects of campus life and contained very abusive language. Haber only read the parts of the letter which pertained to the Daily Collegian and first promised to turn the letter over to the Collegian and then refused.

Attacking the editorial board of the Daily Collegian in an attempt to throw a smoke screen around the reorganization committee's incompetence is not only obvious, it is stupid.

Yet Mr. Haber chose to read the letter, which he said came from the Pollock area, and thereby lend support to the un-

named writer's remarks which suggested that the editorials in the Daily Collegian were "biased" (of course they are, that's what the editorial page is for) and that the Collegian was just upset because it had been scooped.

A newspaper can be "scooped" only by a competing newspaper and we do not believe that the borough paper sent a reporter or is even concerned about SGA affairs.

As for our "biased" editorials, the Daily Collegian has the right (see the United States Constitution) to express its own views on the editorial page whether or not those views agree with anyone else's.

The letter writer, if he disagreed with Collegian opinion, should have written a letter to the editor and signed his name and not hidden like a coward and given Haber Inc. the opportunity to use it as a smoke screen to hide their own shortcomings.

In reading this letter, Mr. Haber revealed that he hadn't the vaguest idea of what a newspaper is and allowed himself to be dragged down below the level of the letter writer.

Haber Inc.'s handling of the whole issue accurately reflects the type of people which 80 per cent of the student body elected by staying away from the polls.

—NICKI WOLFORD

Letters

ADS Head Answers Aberg

TO THE EDITOR: The recent criticism of "those boxed testimonials" by Mr. Gilbert Aberg urged me to look up Mr. Aberg's position in the University.

I find that he is in radio and television production and is also employed by the Public Information Office.

Without going into a tirade on the obvious relationship of advertising to television and radio, (although there is no advertising in educational television, which is the field I assume Mr. Aberg is employed in, such television wouldn't have been possible without first having the groundwork laid by commercial TV), I would like

to take a suggestion to Mr. Aberg the Public Information man.

I suggest that he purchase a horse similar to that of Paul Revere's and ride through every village and hamlet in Pennsylvania shouting the press releases which are usually sent out by the Public Information Office to newspapers supported by advertising.

You might even include your "copper commercial" but I doubt if the jingle would catch on in a country where the majority of commercial jingles are good, not drab.

—Donald P. Bellisario,
President,
Alpha Delta Sigma

More Comment on Ad

TO THE EDITOR: I am certain the American people will be properly grateful to the fearless Professor Byers who has exposed a dastardly conspiracy of the Schlesinger gang (those so-called intellectuals), to abolish all advertising, bring back a "pie-in-the-sky", city-state arrangement," and increase the price of toothpaste in State College.

Fortunately, as the champion of our liberties has noted, "the intelligence of the American people is increasing in every generation," perhaps itself a tribute to better educa-

tion through advertising.

As for me, I won't pay one cent more for toothpaste or listen to any criticism of one of our oldest professions.

Furthermore, if I were an advertising agency; I would not hire out at election time to unethical persons who sully my honor and try to destroy the American way of life.

Next thing you know they start telling us folk we can't spell good "enuf." With men who know their eggheads best it's treason, two to one.

—Kenneth Inniss
Instructor of English

Book Purchases Criticized

TO THE EDITOR: In the Tuesday Collegian article concerning the recent purchases by the Pattee Library of 17th and 18th Century English Literature books, the Librarian Ralph J. McComb cited the purchases as being significant because they will greatly strengthen this area of research at the University.

I agree with Mr. McComb that their purchases are significant, but I question whether the library can afford a first edition of "Gulliver's Travels" when it can provide but one copy of "Economics and Introductory Analysis" (3rd edition) and "Man, the State and War."

Perhaps these books are insignificant to the scholar, but they are of great significance to

the hundreds of students enrolled in Econ. 2 and 14 and Pl. Sc. 14 who must wait an hour or more in rooms 107 and 105 of the library in order to check them out for a mere two hours.

I realize that the scholar's needs must be fulfilled, but in doing so must the student's needs be sacrificed? Perhaps the Administration of the Pattee Library should reexamine its purposes in order to decide where its primary responsibility lies.

Should its limited budget be used for the purchase of texts which are required daily by thousands of undergraduates or for the purchase of rare books to be hidden away in the dark recesses of the stacks?

—Craig L. Bartholomew '63