

Editorial Opinion

# Have Chances Changed?

It's official now. The voluminous report by the governor's special education committee advocating a wholesale overhaul that should shake the very foundations of the education system in this state has been presented to the governor and the legislature.

The obvious questions of everyone at University Park now are just what will this mean for Penn State in the long run? How much will it increase the chances of Penn State getting its full appropriation request this year?

It is a little easier to decipher answers to the first question than the last.

The committee's recommendation concerning the role of Penn State was a virtual endorsement of the long-range plans the University drew up as long ago as 1957. This is certainly a vote of confidence for the University and its attempts to handle its share of the higher education load in this state.

No other university in the state can match the advance of Penn State in educating the youth of Pennsylvania.

In addition to accepting and endorsing Penn State's long-range plan to enroll 25,000 students on main campus and 10,000 on commonwealth campuses and centers by 1970, the governor's committee published reams of evidence supporting the need for Penn State to expand.

Expansion of Penn State's facilities was listed as the first of three definite requirements for meeting the minimal higher education requirements of the next decade.

Second was the expansion and transformation of the present system of state colleges (formerly state teachers colleges) into liberal arts schools.

Third was the establishment of a system of community colleges or junior colleges concentrating on the first two years of collegiate level study.

Penn State has already started working on its expansion, but to do so it needs \$6 million more from the state than it got last year.

Now, by elementary logic, it would seem incomprehensible that the state would in one breath expect Penn State to fulfill the expanded demand and in the next refuse it the money needed for the job.

But the governor and the legislature have not yet acknowledged this need for Penn State in the higher education system of the state. Only the committee's report has pointed it out.

The governor and legislature have only heard this report but not yet acted upon it.

There were reports that action may be delayed by sending the report to a joint committee for further study. However, this idea has been nixed by officials.

Senator Jo Hays, a member of the governor's committee, said last night that he definitely expects some action arising from the report to be initiated during this session of the Assembly in Harrisburg.

Hays said the report was received by legislators with cautious enthusiasm because of the price tag (increased taxation.)

But the support of the administration is also needed for bills on education to get through this session. Governor Lawrence's feelings may be revealed when he addresses a joint session of the house and senate Monday.

If the governor and legislature accept the education committee's report, they have no alternative but to grant Penn State's full budget request as the first step in carrying out the committee's recommendations.

A Student-Operated Newspaper

# The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est 1887

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JOHN BLACK  
Editor

CHESTER LUCIDO  
Business Manager



Letters

## Soph Objects To System Of Grading

TO THE EDITOR: Your final average for X-ology 200 was 69.4. You receive your transcript with a 1 beside the course. You came within 8/10 of a point from getting a 2 from the course. Naturally, you complain. Do you have reason to? You certainly do.

Presently we are on a 4 point grading system. This means whether your average for a particular course is a 60 or a 69, you receive a 1; 70 or 79 a 2; and so on. This means student X may earn a 69.4 and student Y may earn a 60 and both will receive the arbitrary 1 on their transcript.

This system in no way can benefit the student but can only serve as a detriment to show an accurate description of his academic knowledge. It is argued that this system evens itself out. This is true in some cases, but certainly not in all.

Many schools base their grading on a 5 point system. That is to say if you have a 79, you receive a 2.9; a 75 a 2.5; a 70 a 2.0. It is certainly evident this system shows a more accurate description of knowledge.

In this wonderful age of IBM cards and matriculation numbers and four term plans, I doubt if there would be too much difficulty in changing the present obsolete and absurd system the University is now using.

—Richard Leedes '63

Interpreting

## Problem Behind Budget Crisis

By MAX HARRELSON

Chief AP United Nations Correspondent

Stripped of diplomatic trappings, the current UN financial crisis boils down to a single basic problem: Some member nations won't pay their assessments on costly undertakings such as those in the Middle East and the Congo.

So far the General Assembly has concentrated on stopgap measures to meet day-to-day bills. It has not come to grips with the broad question of how to collect from reluctant members. As a result, the organization continues year after year to spend more money than it collects. It has been getting along by some fancy juggling — the judicious transfer of money from one fund to another or by use of reserve funds.

Since 1956 the United Nations has been running a deficit of \$4 million to \$5 million a year on the UN Emergency Force in the Middle East. This is caused by the refusal of the Soviet bloc, the Arab countries and some others to pay assessments.

On this operation alone, the deficit has mounted to more than \$21 million not counting this year's expected arrears.

A major crisis came with the UN entry into the Congo last July. To date, the United Nations has collected less than half the \$48 million which members were assessed for 1960. Of the 99 countries only six have paid anything at all.

The Congo costs are continuing at about \$10 million a month. The assembly likely will approve a pending proposal for assessments to raise the 1961 budget of \$120 million, but the prospects for collecting all that money is dim.

The Soviet bloc and France already have ruled out any

payments whatsoever. Other countries are expected to follow their lead.

UN officials hope that a substantial part of the deficit will be liquidated by voluntary contributions, but member countries have shown no great enthusiasm for such contributions.

The United States is the only country which volunteered a cash contribution for 1960 Congo costs, although some others, including the Soviet Union, wrote off the cost of services such as the airlifting of troops. Up to now, the United States is the only one which has offered a voluntary contribution toward 1961 costs.

Now and then a delegate raises the possibility of invoking penalties against delinquent members. But there is virtually no chance of action at this time.

The only penalty provided in the UN Charter is the denial of voting privileges under certain circumstances. Important local issues are involved in special assessments like these. Apart from this, many countries would have serious reservations about taking harsh action against any of the big powers.

The United Nations seems able to avert bankruptcy for a while but eventually it will have to find a way to bail itself out.

## Gazette

"Africa," 7:30 p.m., 121 Sparks  
Chemistry Program, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly room  
Chemistry Program, 9 p.m., 218 HUB Information Table, 7 p.m., HUB 1st floor  
Interlandia, 7:30 p.m., HUB ballroom  
IVCF, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB  
Lacrosse Team, 5:15 p.m., HUB ballroom  
M.I. Colloquium, 4:15 p.m., 211 Mineral Science  
Placement, 8-5 p.m., 203, 212 HUB

## WDFM Schedule

FRIDAY  
3:25 Financial Tidbits  
3:30 Stock Market Reports  
4:00 Critic's Choice  
5:00 Music at Five  
6:00 Studio X  
6:55 Weathercapoe  
7:00 Marquee Memories  
8:00 Starlight Review  
9:00 Light Classical Jukebox  
9:45 News, Weather, Sports  
10:00 Ballet Theatre  
12:00 Midnight Mood  
1:00 Sign Off

Letters

## Serenade Protest

TO THE EDITOR: Since when do coeds need protection against a beautiful serenade? Sunday night a serenade for a girl in Atherton Hall was interrupted by two campus patrolmen efficiently doing their

duty by keeping gentlemen out of the Atherton courtyard.

Everything was in order both in the dorm and in the fraternity group, so I ask: Where do they want serenaders to stand... on the HUB lawn?  
—Kay Mills, '63

# A Contemporary Masterpiece

By STEPHEN R. BLUM

Contributing Writer

The college campus is a place where cynicism ferments and often nihilism is brewed. Contorted values are spawned out of a maze of relationships which reach heights of superficiality and depths of decadence.

The intellectual is cynical to the point of being overbearing on any subject that is even partially social—from the current political scene to the values, or lack thereof, of the fraternity system. The student who is not "classed" as an intellectual is usually referred to (by the intellectuals) as a "bore" who is going to lead this country to ruin.

For many students the university environment, far from being a decent collection of books, is an island of books. Never have so many people read scantily so much in so little time as they do for courses in literature, humanities, and others which require 10 or so works to be read in a 16 week period. Quantity rather than thoroughness is often the goal that the student sees. This is so because even the most slow-witted of students has found out there are many substitutes for quality in order to accomplish The Goal: "getting through" the course.

Because of these existing ten-

dencies it is therefore not at all surprising that most students do not get a chance—that is make the time—to do any "outside" reading that is not required. This sort of person is missing something.

It seems the "best-seller" lists in the New York Times and elsewhere usually exemplify the sad fact that Americans don't like to think when they read. They like to be put into a little bubble and then entertained, carried far away from the daily worries of the world of political and economic contingencies urges upon us.

Ordinarily, I think the best seller list is merely a good example of the best junk in America.

But there are several books on the current lists that do not show the trend toward illusion-seeking.

Andre Schwartz-Bert's novel, "The Last of the Just," is now at the top of the list, and I think that it belongs there. This story is what Leon Uris's "Exodus" could have been had the latter been well written, rather than just a compassionate documentary.

"The Last of the Just" deals with much of the same material as did "Exodus"—it traces a fictional family in Europe and discusses this Jewish family in the light of the continual political, religious, and economic sanctions that have been placed upon it, especially dealing with the Nazis "final

solution," genocide.

This novel, winner of France's highest literary award in 1960, is written with a magnificent flowing prose, a prose that has the character perception that we find in Dostoyevsky and the irony that is present in Camus's works.

The tracing of the Levy family from 1185 AD to the Nazi extermination camps over 750 years later is interwoven with the Talmudic legend of the 36 Just Men who are born into the world to bear all of the suffering of the masses. This book is one of the most beautifully horrid tales that I have seen to come out of the current literary pre-occupation with the Jewish character of the 1930's.

This is a book that will not chase away nihilism. It is not a book, like "Exodus," that might be called Zionist propaganda by some: "The Last of the Just" transcends any literary name-calling. It is a contemporary masterpiece, plain and simple, powerful and beautiful, ironic and poetic.

If the intellectuals would daign to read a best-seller and the "ordinary people" would make the time to read a book that is not required for any course, a great many people could find a literary work of art and widen our horridly collegiate perspective. "The Last of the Just" is to be felt and experienced for what it is: a fine contemporary novel.