

Editorial Opinion

The Un-American Activities of HUAC

"Operation Abolition," to be shown for the first time in State College tomorrow opens with the following words:

"During the next few minutes you will see revealed the long-time classic Communist tactic in which a relatively few well-trained hard-core Communist agents are able to incite and use non-Communist sympathizers to perform the dirty work of the Communist Party."

Those words are spoken by the Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee—Francis Walter of Easton, Pa.

The film purports to be a documentary of a "Communist inspired" demonstration against HUAC in San Francisco in May, 1960.

This was a demonstration by students in the San Francisco area—students who demonstrated for three days of HUAC hearings and in numbers sometimes reaching into the thousands.

Why did students leave their classrooms? Why did their professors and the press of the area defend them? Why did HUAC later subpoena all news films of the demonstrations? Why did FBI later issue a defense of the film through J. Edgar Hoover's report "Communist Target—Youth?"

These are fascinating questions with relevance to the demonstrations, HUAC and governmental abuses of civil rights.

San Francisco 1960

The students in San Francisco were not under communist leadership. We quote Burton H. Wolfe's article in the "Californian" of March 1961 who concluded, as a result of personal interviews, that the student leaders "... had taken particular care to reject overtures from the Communist Party made on two occasions. They made it clear that it was only to be a student demonstration with no interference from any kind of political party."

The students made a public rejection of overtures by one of the witnesses subpoenaed before the committee.

According to John R. Searle of the University of California's philosophy department: "On the afternoon of the first day, that's Thursday, Merle Brodsky, one of the subpoenaed witnesses, approached the student monitors on the picket line and tried to get him to cooperate with him ... He was flatly refused."

No, these were not Communists, nor agents of Communists.

They were opposing the repeated abuses of the House Committee—a committee whose constitutionality is questioned and whose method of operation is despicable.

The committee works with what the St. Louis Post-Dispatch calls "... a vast dragnet operation. Obviously, the purpose is not to assemble information preparatory to drafting new laws. The purpose is clearly to expose for exposure's sake. It is to embarrass those summoned. Indeed to give them a kind of rough justice trial in the guise of conducting a congressional inquiry ..."

The purpose of a Congressional committee is to hold hearings and thereby obtain information which will yield legislation.

In 1938 HUAC was originally constituted to investigate "the extent, character and objections of un-American propaganda activities in the United States and the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principles of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution."

The utter impossibility of defining "un-American" thoughts, deeds and acts makes a mockery of this Committee. Carried to its fullest extent this means that anyone who happens to hold unpopular opinions or those which are shared by Communists is "un-American"—at least to HUAC.

The committee uses association and innuendo to accuse those whom it suspects.

HUAC can cite a witness whom it suspects for contempt of court if that witness refuses to name others associated with "Communists."

Many of HUAC's witnesses may at one time have been members (knowingly or unknowingly) of Communist front groups. In the late twenties and thirties there was a widespread interest in this new social force as a result of depression conditions. Many, such as Arthur Miller and Richard Wright, who were active have since disavowed Communism. Yet HUAC would have had Miller imprisoned if he had not fought their contempt charges.

'Operation Abolition'

The film "Operation Abolition" is a product of a company called Washington Video Productions and sells for \$100.

HUAC turned the clips gathered from news-

men over to this firm—and the production now masquerades under the unmistakable guise of government authority.

As such it is privileged and not subject to libel or slander action.

The film is supposed to stimulate its viewers into vigilant observation of groups that may be "red." It is supposed to show that "it can happen here."

It is also supposed to be truth. It is not.

One of the most flagrant misrepresentations in the film is the accusation that Harry Bridges, who is termed a Communist leader, appeared on the scene moments before "rioting" broke out.

No proof of Bridges' affiliation with the Communists has been revealed. He was, according to opponents of the film, at lunch when the demonstration broke out.

Further, the film is spliced to make it appear that the students began the demonstration Friday, May 13, which led to hosing by police and the arrest of 64 students.

Students were at the time sitting outside the hearing room because only those who had been issued white invitation cards by the Committee could gain entry to the hearings.

At this point hoses were turned on the students outside the hearing room in the lobby. In the film version they were rioting and one was accused of jumping a barricade.

Eye-witness accounts however, disagree with the film version. George Draper of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote on May 14, 1960: "I did not see any of the kids actually fighting with the police. Their resistance was more passive. They would simply go limp and be manhandled out of the building."

This film has been condemned by newspapers and magazines including the New York Times, Nation, the Minneapolis Star and the San Francisco Chronicle.

It also stands condemned by this newspaper.

But we urge students to see it and to investigate fully its background and its presentation. Only with such information can HUAC's violations of the bill of rights and of basic human dignity be corrected. This is one area where trust in the printed word is not sufficient.

Every American who truly upholds freedom of information and free expression of opinion has an obligation to be informed of such abuses of human rights.

To fall down in the defense of these rights can, one day, mean their permanent loss.

Letters

Coleman Answer

TO THE EDITOR: We've had a week or so to listen to the comments of others who know Miss Teichholtz concerning the free publicity which was recently bestowed on us in her column. Along with others, I also offer my condolences to any victim of congenial persecution. Further reply would be superfluous and only aggravate her condition.

—Bill Coleman

WDFM Schedule

- THURSDAY
3:55 Financial Tibbits
4:00 The Philadelphia
5:06 News
5:05 Music at Five
6:00 News
6:05 Dinner Date
8:55 Weatherscope
7:00 CAMPUS BEAT
Washington Reports
Album Review
Remember Radio?
News
This is the Subject
Passport
Folk Music
Opinion 15
News
10:00 Chamber Concert
12:00 Sign-off

Letters

'Utter Purge'

TO THE EDITOR: "Down with sentimentality!" This is the newest doctrine at Penn State. It strives to banish sentiment from the campus.

The shackles of the administration compel us to submit to this purge of sentiment. However, the purge isn't comprehensive enough; it lacks the perfection which our new term system demands.

Class gifts and alumni donations have gone untouched; no "cogency" can be found for the retention of these impetuous displays of sentimentality. The cessation of these activities would be in agreement with the new doctrine.

—Bill McCanna '65

Letters

'Let's Count Blessings'

TO THE EDITOR: With what is going on in the world today, it seems a tragedy that we make such an issue of "No Thanksgivng Vacation."

I think it's about time that we, the students of Penn State, realize how lucky we are to be living in the United States, to be going to college, to be having a meal on Thanksgiving Day.

We certainly aren't hearing the 56 Peace Corps members

here crying over the sacrifices they are making. Our boys in the military service certainly can't go "running home to mama" for homemade pumpkin pie and turkey. Do we expect to make it home when we're out of college?

We, as college students, should be mature enough to be thankful for what we do have and not cry over such a trivial matter.

—Anne Thomas '64

A Student-Operated Newspaper
57 Years of Editorial Freedom

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

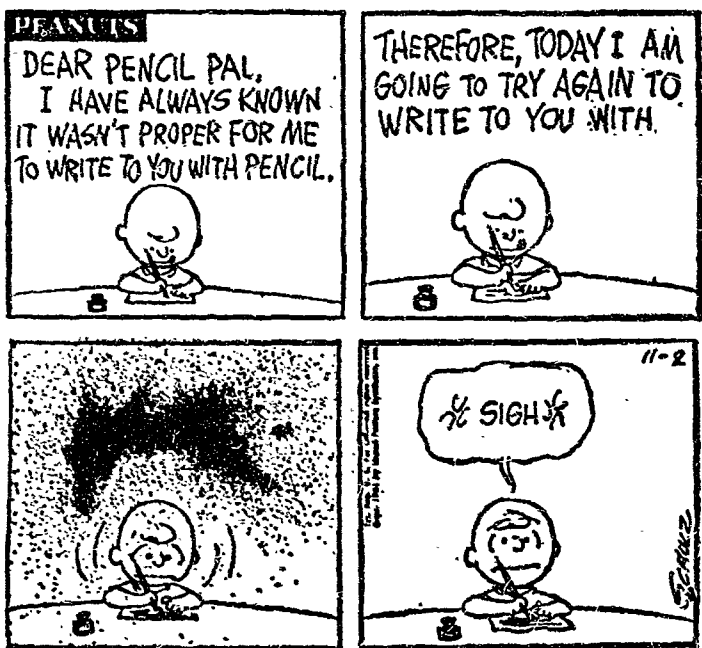
Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 6, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Price: \$6.00 a year. Mailing Address - Box 381, State College, Pa.

JOHN BLACK
Editor

WAYNE HILINSKI
Business Manager

City Editors, Lyons Cerecice and Richard Leighton; Editorial Editors, Meg Teichholtz and Joel Myers; News Editors, Patricia Dyer and Paula Dranov; Personnel and Training Director, Karen Bynecken; Assistant Personnel and Training Director, Susan Eberly; Sports Editor, James Earl; Picture Editor, John Beange.

Local Ad Mgr., Marge Downer; Assistant Local Ad Mgr., Martin Zonko; National Ad Mgr., Phyllis Hamilton; Credit Mgr., Jeffrey Schwartz; Assistant Credit Mgr., Ralph Friedman; Classified Ad Mgr., Bobbie Graham; Circulation Mgr., Neal Kells; Promotion Mgr., Jane Trevaickis; Personnel Mgr., Anita Holl; Office Mgr., Marcy Green.



Gazette

- TODAY
Ag. Hill Party, 6:30 p.m., 219 HUB
Alpha Phi Delta, 8 a.m., first floor, HUB
Chess Team, 8 p.m., 217-218 HUB
College Caravan for Harrisburg, 2 p.m., 212-215 HUB
Council for Exceptional Child, 6:30 p.m., 214-215 HUB
Gamma Sigma Sigma Pledges, 7:30 p.m., McElwain initiation room
Hillel Freshman Council, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Hillel Radio Committee, 1 p.m., 208 HUB
Harrisburg Tour, 1:30 p.m., HUB Assembly Hall
Panhel, 4 p.m., 214-215 HUB
Panhel 7 p.m., 217-218 HUB
Placement, 8:30 a.m., 216-217-218 HUB
Spanish Club, 7:30 p.m., Zeta Tau Alpha suite