

Editorial Opinion

A Mature Congress

The new Undergraduate Student Congress, although composed of almost completely novice Congressmen, moved rapidly, efficiently and maturely through a heavy agenda Thursday night, giving much hope for an unusually successful year.

The Congress has already set up committees to construct its by-laws, to work out a program to lobby for repeal of the four per cent state tax on text books, to get the converters so that WDFM can be received on AM sets, to work with the Liberal Arts faculty on eliminating compulsory ROTC for LA students and has provided the funds for a second student phone at the Hetzel Union desk.

This is, we think, a more than noteworthy list of projects. It would seem that this Congress is benefiting from a lack of experience and its political unsophistication, for its efforts are concentrated on the welfare of the student body rather than on political infighting.

We were also encouraged to hear many of the Congressmen speak often of their constituencies and the office hours they had set up when discussing projected action.

They will, it seems, be doing their share to make this new representative system the democratic process it is intended to be.

Two words of warning are perhaps in order. The Congress must guard against overgrown bureaucracy. Committees are valuable and necessary but they must have a purpose for existing—that being the proposal of legislation not the sloughing off of investigation in favor of chaos.

Secondly, the Congress will soon be presented with by-laws and procedural rules, which can make the difference between effective and non-effective governing. Congressmen should discuss these rules with parliamentary authorities on campus and should look over past SGA constitutions.

By nature these rules should act to keep Congress efficient—but many of them will be debatable and have long and not-so illustrious histories.

The foundation of evaluation is, of course, time. It may be too early to laud and salute, but we hope the first night promise and enthusiasm of this Congress is not a result of its novelty, but of its responsibility.

Religion in the Schools

A suburb of Philadelphia has once again been brought into the judicial spotlight with regard to religious instruction in the public schools.

The first such occasion was in 1959 when a private citizen went to court to get permission for Abington school children to be excused from bible readings which were required by the Harrisburg Legislature.

Edward L. Schempp, a Unitarian, succeeded in getting this permission and was also the force behind a ruling by a district court on Thursday that bars such readings altogether as violations of the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

Attempts are now being made to get a reversal of this recent decision through the State Supreme Court.

There is no doubt in our mind that the intent of the Constitution is violated by making religion a part, if even a small part, of the publicly supported schools.

As Thursday's Court ruling stated, the fact that some or all students could be excused does not mitigate the obligatory nature of the ceremony.

Further, the First Amendment says Congress shall pass no law respecting an establishment or religion, while the Fourteenth Amendment says "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

The intent is therefore to protect the minority group and to maintain a permanent separation of church and state. No Philadelphia lawyer can convince us differently regardless of the fine intentions of bringing religious ethics to the nation's young.

A Student-Operated Newspaper

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

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Letters

Grad Admits Apathy Issue; Sees Causes

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Sprintzen acknowledges that the views held in his letter (Feb. 1) are not those of the student body. To a degree this is true, but I, as a member of that body, must agree with his general proposition that apathy has replaced conviction on this and many another campus.

I find it compulsory to agree that students "have faith only in the ability to live without faith," that his pessimism "about the future of the U.S." is warranted, and that our society is rapidly becoming "empty inside."

Mr. Sprintzen asks why. Why are there no organizations for national liberation, the U.N., education, etc.? Why don't we respond to the important problems?

Mr. Sprintzen answers "Because WE JUST DON'T CARE!" Here is where I have my falling out with him. Is this the answer? Is this an answer at all? I think not.

I feel Mr. Sprintzen has gone full circle. He forwards the argument (in paragraph 4) that students lack commitment, then concludes (in paragraph 4) the reasons we do nothing is because we don't care. I submit the reasons for student apathy must be found elsewhere.

I suggest the students' and society's appetite for unique world missions, for pioneer experience, for freeing mankind went but the back door when denial of principles, the natural law, and God came in the front. The result of this displacement of principles, the law, and God is the emptiness and inaction described so despairingly by Mr. Sprintzen.

And without his knowing it, the emptiness he detests has permeated himself. As a consequence he is unable to see the real reasons for his own emptiness of for the emptiness of his peers.

I insist the concepts of principle, natural law, and God are still valid. Within these concepts lie the hope which will fill Mr. Sprintzen's vacuum and the guiding reasons why students and in general should begin caring again.

—John McHale
Grad Student

Spot Check On Ad Men

TO THE EDITOR: Die, War, Victim, Survival These four words greeted me as I leafed through The Daily Collegian.

The source of this verbage (rhymes with garbage) was the crude type of advertising engaged in by the Saturday Evening Post, or its Madison Avenue popularizer.

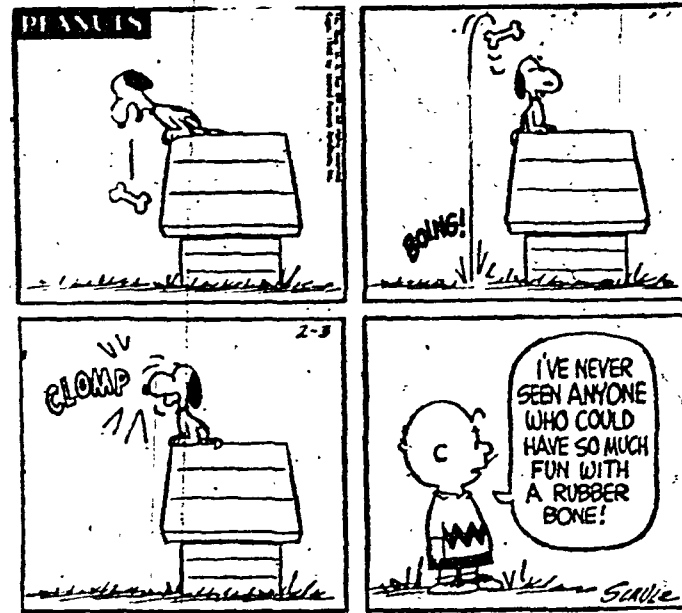
It would be nice to clue these gray flannel suit Tarzans into the fact that these ads are to be read by university students and not bored housewives. A little less sensationalism might produce better results.

A leopard doesn't change its spots, however, so an unintellectual, slick paper, photo magazine can't be expected to wise-up either.

—Patrick Taylor
Grad Student

WDFM Schedule

- SATURDAY
- 8:00 Sign On
- 8:55 Weatherscope
- 7:00 Hi-Fi Open House
- 9:00 Offbeat
- 1:00 King's Corner
- 2:00 Sign-off
- SUNDAY
- 6:00 Sign On
- 6:25 Mormon Tabernacle Choir
- 7:00 The Third Programme
- 12:00 Sign-off
- MONDAY
- 6:00 News
- 6:05 Dinner Date
- 6:55 Weatherscope
- 7:00 CAMPUS BEAT
- Listening Post London
- Album Review
- Masterworks from France
- News
- Contemporary Concepts
- Passport
- Campus and Religion
- Artists Series Preview
- Bookmark
- News, Sports, Weather
- 10:00 Symphonies Notebook
- 12:00 Sign-off



World at a Glance

Reports Claim JFK Planning Cuban Embargo

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy was reported last night to have decided to slap a total embargo on U.S. imports from Cuba.

The United States has been buying about \$35 million worth of Cuban products a year, mostly tobacco. Secretary of State Dean Rusk has said Premier Fidel Castro has been using the dollars to finance Red revolutionary activities in other hemisphere countries.

Informants said Kennedy's action would not end those U.S. sales to Cuba which are limited to food and medicine and which amount to some \$15 million annually.

While the U.S. government has banned sales of other items in a partial embargo against the Moscow-linked Castro regime, food and medical shipments have been allowed to continue on grounds that the United States is still friendly toward the Cuban people, though not the Castro government.

The White House was expected to have an announcement today on the Kennedy embargo decision.

It follows hard on the heels of the Punta del Este, Uruguay, meeting at which the foreign ministers of the American republics unanimously condemned the Castro regime and communism as incompatible with the American system. The Organization of American States ministers voted to take specific steps against Cuba.

Muzzling Debate Impasse Reached

WASHINGTON (AP)—A secrecy-shrouded peace talk between Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and senators looking into Pentagon censorship failed yesterday to end their impasse over McNamara's refusal to point a finger at any of his censors.

But they decided to try again next week to avoid an open battle over the senators' insistent demands that they be told which censors made specific changes in speeches by generals, admirals and other top defense officials.

GOP County Leaders To Hold Slate Talks

FEASTERVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Republican leaders in six southeastern counties said yesterday those who control the party's purse strings in Pennsylvania are attempting to dictate who shall run for governor and senator.

Frederick E. Ziegler, Bucks County chairman, issued a statement on behalf of the group, saying it intends to meet independently to talk over a GOP slate for this year's election. The statement added that George I. Bloom, state chairman, and other county leaders, will be invited to attend.

AEC Reports New Soviet Bomb Testing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Soviet Union apparently set off a nuclear explosion underground early yesterday, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission announced.

The commission said last night "the detonation took place at the Soviet nuclear weapons proving ground in the Semipalatinsk area in central Asia," adding:

"Its yield was well above the threshold of underground detectability, even by a single national system, and the absence of acoustic signals indicates that it occurred underground."

It was the first Soviet underground nuclear test ever announced by the AEC.

The AEC announced 31 Soviet tests in a series conducted last fall. The last was announced Nov. 4.

But President Kennedy has indicated there were additional Soviet tests not announced by this country, saying the series included about 50 in all.

Previous Soviet explosions announced by the AEC took place in the atmosphere or under water. A commission spokesman said he could not elaborate on the brief statement. He would not comment on the exact yield of the blast.

Adoula Will Try To Unite Congo

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Congoese Premier Cyrille Adoula told the U.N. General Assembly yesterday his government is determined to end secession of Katanga Province. He asked for more military aid to help achieve his goal of national unity.

The slim, 40-year-old political leader spelled out his aims and policies in a half-hour speech delivered in French which drew resounding applause.

He is here for intensive talks with Acting Secretary-General U Thant and other top U.N. officials on aid to the Congo. He will go to Washington Monday to meet with President Kennedy.

"Our first concern has always been and is the re-establishment of national unity," Adoula declared. "From the beginning my government has announced its absolute will to do away with the Katanga secession."

He said that his government would seek that goal through peaceful negotiations, but added that its wish for peace "in no way means that we are prepared to compromise on the principle of unity."

Red Offensive Steps Laotian Peace Talks

LUANG PRABANG, Laos (AP)—The Communist offensive against the little valley town of Nam Tha in northwest Laos broke up another attempt yesterday at talks on formation of a three-party coalition government.