

Editorial Opinion

Hurry Up and Wait

One of the more subdued slogans of military life, "hurry up and wait," hits the history of the move to make ROTC voluntary for Liberal Arts students smack on its over-polished head.

The issue emerged in resolution form from a meeting of the LA faculty nearly two years ago and was forwarded, through all the correct channels, to the University Senate.

By the time it was two weeks old it had been hustled from the Senate floor to the Military Instruction committee of the Senate for what is called "review."

After some months of studious consideration by the militia, the LA report returned to the senate floor where it was court-martialed for not "showing cause for a change" in the program.

So the LA faculty, men willing and able to serve the cause, took their report and updated it.

Last September the report was presented to the LA Planning Committee. Then it came again before the LA faculty, who, showing admirable consistency, approved it.

That was in November. In January the report went to the secretary of the Senate, Robert G. Bernreuter, who is responsible for getting items onto the Senate agenda.

But, we are sorry to say, the report is not on the agenda and probably will not be seen for some time. It has been sent, once again, to the Senate committee on Military Instruction, which has promised to give it careful consideration. About six months' worth of consideration at that.

There are many ways to skin a legislative body. Obviously, the most democratic brings the issue up for discussion and assumes that members of a University faculty will be able to arrive at a cogent decision. This particular method, however, is risky.

That cogent decision might leave this school without a compulsory ROTC system and thus without the support of the American Legion, the John Birch Society and the neo-Minute Men.

If, for some reason, the support of conservative elements in the state is necessary, the risk is too great.

And so myths, concerning the character and citizen building effect of marching through the spring time mud or sitting in front of a TV course in tactics, will persist.

So, too, will the myth about the importance of compulsory ROTC to the national defense persist, although statements are issued from the Defense Department to the contrary.

Myths have a platitudious way of running in wider and wider concentric circles—without investigation. When a faculty, which is not in the slightest connected with the Defense Department, investigates and explodes them, the findings should be discussed by the body for which they were intended, namely the entire University Senate.

It would seem that the Military Instruction committee would be well informed on the ROTC issue and therefore need the least time to review the proposal. But obviously this is not so.

The methodical approach can be overdone. We think it has been and that this iconoclast recommendation is being suppressed.

We would like to see the University Senate break through some proper channels and discuss what it has been repeatedly asked to discuss—even if such a move has to come from the floor.

These editors ask only a little less waiting and a little more hurrying.

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New York Hails Glenn As Hero

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

Americans still like their heroes modest and clean and revere the family which keeps the faith, and New Yorkers, despite things you may have heard, are Americans.

When John H. Glenn Jr. spoke before Congress of the things a man feels when the flag passes by, and of faith, and of the community of effort of many men, he made a deep impression.

Cynicism, which so often gives the impression of a major role in American life, took a back seat.

And so, yesterday, did the hard sophistication of which New Yorkers are so often accused. The people reacted to John Glenn and his companions even as they had reacted to the shining young face of Charles A. Lindbergh on another bright day 35 years ago.

The clothing was different and the faces had changed, but not the mores of the people.

Many languages were still spoken. But people were perfectly able to communicate, with the heroes and among themselves.

Letters

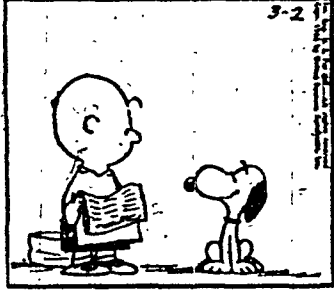
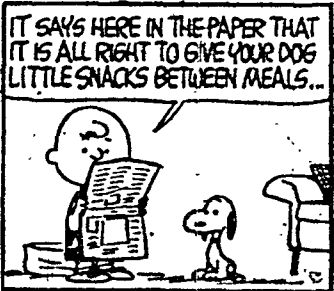
'Omnia Leighton Putrid Est'

TO THE EDITOR: When asked what I thought of the movie "Spartacus" my reaction was, is, and shall remain singular—it was one of the best movies I have ever seen.

Mr. Leighton has taken it upon himself to poke vicious droll at what millions have proclaimed an excellent film—an outstanding step forward in the fight for individualism, Mr. Leighton.

I daresay, I would very much like to see a review by Mr. Leighton of "The Brides of Dracula." Judging by his past performances, it should be proclaimed nothing short of an 'Epic.'

—Kenneth L. Schlegel '64



Letters

MRC Sets Dress Code; Conformity Takes 'Other' Forms

TO THE EDITOR: The letter by Mr. Epstein concerning the role of the Housing Department in dictating dress regulations in the dining halls (The Daily Collegian, Feb. 28) was, to say the least, erroneous.

In this letter, an image of the Housing Department (more frequently referred to as "Housing") is created which depicts this arm of the administration as being a tyrannical regulatory body.

It may be of interest to Mr. Epstein, and to many others whose knowledge of the dress code is, at least, vague, to learn that the dress code in question was adopted last fall by the Men's Residence Council, with enforcement provisions being the responsibility of the representatives of the office of the Dean of Men.

A committee has been formed, with one representative from each area, which has as its intended function the modification of the dress code to accommodate the problems, such as Mr. Epstein's, which will inevitably arise.

The over-abundance in our society of "chronic-complain-

ers" because of their lack of positive approach to problems, can have little hope of realizing any substantial degree of success.

A more substantial objection to Mr. Epstein's attitude also comes to mind; this being his opinion concerning conformity. Mr. Epstein speaks in one breath, or stroke of the pen as it were, of "all the little products of the Penn State Machine," and that when we "get out" we will all talk and think alike.

Then follows the magnificent statement, "Fellow students please don't give up as I have, for I am sure that somewhere in the midst of you there is one person with courage..."

While the tendency to conformity is truly one of the most lamentable aspects of our society, the trend seems to be stimulated by rather than inhibited by persons such as Mr. Epstein who, at least as indicated in the letter in question, refuse to inform themselves, or think for themselves, and who even expect someone else to stand up for their convictions.

—Bruce DeWoolson '64

Support for Tshombe

TO THE EDITOR: In regard to the article by Joel Myers in which he took a stand against Moise Tshombe coming to the U.S., we believe certain points should be cleared up.

Mr. Myers said that President Kennedy supported the U.N. operations against secessionist Katanga. This is the policy of the U.S. but a contradictory one. The U.S. has supported self-determination for Senegal from the Mali Federation and for Syria from the U.A.R. Why not for Katanga?

The aim of our foreign policy is to support that which best serves the interest of our government and supporting Katanga would best serve our interests.

The Congolese people have had no say in the U.N. operations. The Communist bloc, along with the neutralist ultras and the complacent connivance of the U.S., has said that the Congo must be a "unitary state" with a "centralized regime." The way the U.N. hopes to achieve this is to liquidate the "secessionist regime" of Katanga.

We believe that the people of Katanga should have an opportunity to state their case before the American people. The best way to do this is to allow Moise Tshombe to enter the U.S.

—Robert E. Mongels '63 —John M. Miller '65

Holding the Bag of Chips

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to congratulate the thief or thieves who pilfered my delivery truck in front of Pollock C Wednesday night. I'm sure the people who were the intended recipients of the order would like to express their thanks, too.

Although I won't say that I didn't mind footing the bill for your brave episode, it's not the monetary loss that bothers me.

I must admit that the money wasn't going to be spent for a birthday present for my moth-

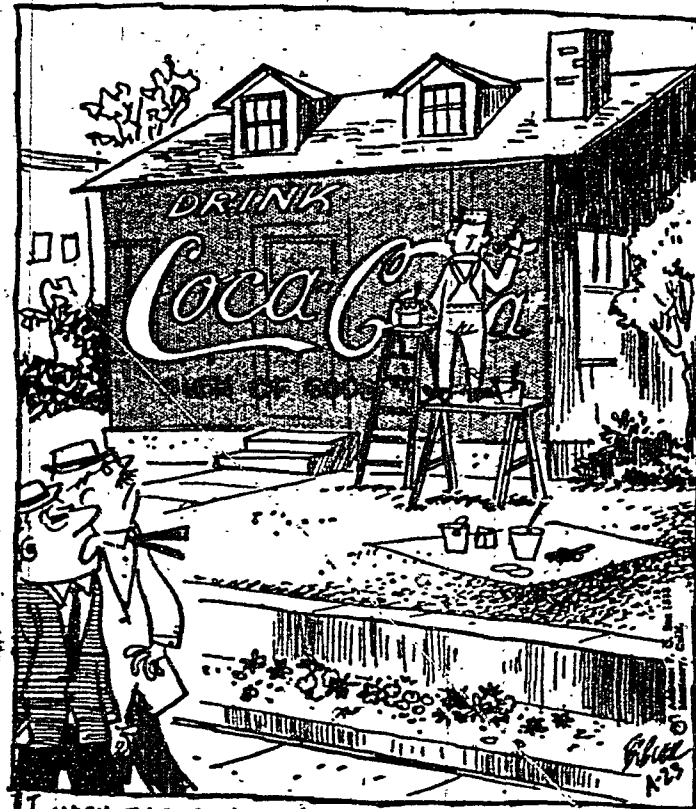
er, or for a peace offering to my girl friend (she's mad at me).

So it's not the money, but I can't help but be confused as to why you didn't take the three bags of potato chips that were a part of the orders: Do you hate potato chips or were they too heavy to carry?

The only logical conclusion that I can make is that people of your calibre don't like potato chips. I wonder if Al Capone liked potato chips? ¡Así es la vida!

—Charles S. Labor '64 Letter cut

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



WISH THERE WERE SOME OTHER WAY PROF. SHARP COULD AFFORD TO HAVE HIS HOUSE PAINTED.