

Editorial Opinion



Lion

Roars

In memorium for James H. Coogan, director of public information, who died in the service of his University Thursday.

His last act, addressing a meeting of the Alumni Club of Southern New Jersey, was characteristic of his life for the past 20 years—done in behalf of Penn State.

Mr. Coogan had the distinction of serving the University first as a student and later as a staff member. He was editor of the Penn State Collegian in 1930, succeeding the late and loved Lou Bell, and was a member of Lion's Paw.

Ironically, in 1958, Mr. Coogan again succeeded the revered Mr. Bell, former public information director, who was fatally stricken in almost the same manner less than four years ago. Prior to that time Mr. Coogan had served in the department for 16 years and was assistant director to Mr. Bell.

He continued the job of promoting Penn State that Mr. Bell had so successfully begun. And he carried the job through Penn State's most crucial and formative years, transforming the University, in the public image as well as in fact, from a local college to an outstanding state university.

His success is attested to by the seven citations awarded to his department by the American College Public Relations Association within the past two years.

Mr. Coogan was respected and admired by newsmen and education officials throughout the state and his personality spread the good name of Penn State as much as did his writing.

Students, faculty and staff alike are indebted to him and share the benefits of his service to the Alma Mater he loved.

The University has lost a devoted servant and the Penn State family a beloved friend.

Today the Lion utters not a loud roar, but a soft and reverent newspaperman's "—30—" for Jim Coogan.

Open Board Meetings

This weekend the 32 persons who decide official University policy are meeting in the Nittany Lion Inn, but few people know what they are discussing. This is because the 32 persons, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of The Pennsylvania State University, conduct their meetings in secrecy.

The Board does not announce its agenda in advance nor does it release a complete statement of proceedings at the conclusion of the meetings.

The closed meetings of the Board undoubtedly stem from the University's unusual corporate position, being both a chartered corporation and a non-profit state-aided institution.

While there can be certain advantages to closed meetings, we believe that for the University to enhance its status as a state institution, a status which has been questioned, the Board must open its meetings to the public.

By resisting all suggestions that they open their meetings, the Board strengthens the arguments of those who say that the University is not the state university of Pennsylvania.

Local public school boards and state government agencies as well as the state legislature are required by law to conduct their meetings in public.

We believe that to strengthen the University's position as the state university the Board should voluntarily open its meetings and thereby operate under the same regulations which govern other state and state supported groups.

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 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Prices: \$4.00 a year. Mailing Address - Box 261 State College, Pa.

Member of The Associated Press

JOHN BLACK Editor

WAYNE HILINSKI Business Manager

Letters

Cutback On Holidays Proposed

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to suggest that the long vacation between the fall and winter terms be cut down, say to the first week of December. Why should we have so much time off during the time of year when the weather is worst and there is nothing much going on except outdated religious holidays of no importance.

Even overlooking this one minor shortcoming, I have nothing but praise for the University's actions to undermine insignificant religious and national holidays such as Easter, Good Friday, Yom Kippur and Thanksgiving.

Along with this it is taking great strides to break down that archaic social unit, the family by denying it such gimmicks as these childish celebrations to maintain its strength.

If all goes well and other organizations can be persuaded to take up the cause, all weak and useless sentimentality which has so long burdened mankind will be driven from our nation.

We will soon be on a par with those great pioneers, the Chinese Communists, surpassing the wildest dreams of George Orwell and Aldous Huxley.

I am glad to see that the University has finally realized the truth of Karl Marx's words that religion is the opiate of the people, and as such should be done away with. Also I commend the actions of the University for its noteworthy attempt to help make sterile the first amendment of the federal Constitution, by prohibiting the free practice of religion.

Registration on Yom Kippur and classes and bluebooks on Good Friday are a stroke of genius. Perhaps compulsory review sessions in a few courses on Easter Sunday would be appropriate also.

But I feel it is necessary to warn our guardians in the administration that it may all be in vain if Christmas and Chanukah are also not completely stamped out. It would be a shame to see such brilliant efforts go for naught. —John C. Reimer '62

Snowed

JFK Scores Victory In Steel Backdown

by Joel Myers

President Kennedy won a major political victory for his administration and an important economic victory for the nation yesterday when he pressured the major steel companies into reversing their decision to raise steel prices.

The big steel corporations decided to abandon plans for a 3.5 per cent price increase late yesterday in the face of growing public opposition, a grand jury investigation of competition in the industry and possible loss of government steel purchases.



MYERS

Just twenty-four hours after U.S. Steel's announcement of a \$6 per ton price boost late Tuesday, President Kennedy condemned the action as an unjustifiable and irresponsible profit grab at the expense of the national interest.

Kennedy had little trouble mustering public support for his views and most of the na-

tion's influential newspapers supported his opinion.

The big steel companies apparently decided not to go through with their planned increase yesterday when they realized Kennedy was going to fight the price boost in the courts and in the Congress.

Their decision not to raise prices marks one of the most important economic victories of the Kennedy Administration. The new round of inflation which was feared would follow in the wake of the price increase is now unlikely, and the chances of Kennedy's balancing his 1962-63 budget appear much greater than they did 24 hours ago.

Some political observers had felt that the steel price increase was partially motivated by the Republican-dominated companies in an attempt to wreck the President's price-stability program, and thus enhance the election chances of GOP Congressional candidates this November.

Whether or not the major steel companies actually sought to aid Republican candidates, it is apparent that Kennedy and the Democratic Party have emerged victorious from the fight over steel prices.

World At A Glance World Leaders Set Conferences On Berlin Issue Russian Note Turns Down Test Ultimatum

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan will devote a full week-end to private talks on major world issues April 28-29, informed sources said yesterday.

The Berlin situation and nuclear testing were understood to be on the Kennedy-Macmillan agenda.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk meanwhile took a cautious approach toward his scheduled Monday meeting with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin on the Berlin question.

Rusk indicated Washington has received no complaint from West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in the forthcoming meeting with the Russians.

U.S. officials also reported none of the other allies have objected to the American position as outlined in a document circulated by the U.S. government.

U.S. authorities hold the view that the Berlin dispute still is in deadlock although tensions have eased some and the Reds have shown an eagerness for a further round of talks.

The main new ingredients in the discussion picture are rival U.S. and Soviet proposals for international authority over access to Berlin.

Atom Spy Soblen Free Pending Appeal Verdict

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice John Marshall Harlan of the Supreme Court permitted release yesterday of Dr. Robert A. Soblen, convicted of spying for the Soviet Union, on \$100,000 bail.

Harlan specified that Soblen could remain at liberty under bond pending final Supreme Court action on an appeal to be filed by May 12.

Soblen, 61, was convicted in federal court in New York last July 13 for wartime espionage and got a life sentence.

The U.S. Circuit Court in New York upheld the conviction last March 13.

Soblen was accused of giving secret data to Soviet agents during a 20-year period.

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Premier Khrushchev told President Kennedy and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan yesterday that the Soviet Union would hold new nuclear tests to match any carried out by the West—underground, in the atmosphere, or in outer space.

Khrushchev made the statement in a note rejecting a last-chance appeal by the Western leaders for a controlled end to nuclear tests. He said the U.S.S.R. refuses to allow "unhindered intelligence" over its territory.

The rejection made it certain an American series of nuclear tests in the atmosphere will go on as planned later this month in an area of the Pacific around Britain's Christmas Island.

Khrushchev's reply was distributed by Tass and broadcast over Moscow radio. Tass said it would be published in all Soviet papers.

"Your continuation of testing and the implementation of your declared decision to hold tests," the Soviet leader said "compels us to prepare and hold tests of our nuclear weapons."

Terrorist Leader Sentenced to Die

PARIS (AP)—Ex-Gen. Edmond Jouhaud was sentenced to death last night as a leader of the terrorist European Secret Army Organization. Defiant cries met the verdict of the special high military court.

Jouhaud, 57, is a former chief of staff of the French air force who turned violently anti-Gaullist.

As a civilian ex-general stripped of military trappings, Jouhaud could be sent to the guillotine rather than the firing squad of military tradition.

There is no appeal from the verdict. However, De Gaulle can commute the sentence if he chooses.

Jouhaud was charged with armed revolt against France and with inciting Algerian Europeans to terrorism as a leader of the Secret Army Organization.

