

Collegian Policy on Printing the News

As we, the new Board of Editors, assume responsibility for the operations of The Daily Collegian today, we dedicate ourselves to the primary function of a newspaper — to inform the public of happenings at the University and around the world through an accurate and fair reporting of the news.

The Daily Collegian is unrepresentative of college newspapers in that it operates under a charter from the state.

This paper is published by Collegian Inc., a 12-member body composed of students, faculty and administrators. The Board of Directors of Collegian Inc., has delegated complete responsibility for the paper's daily operations to this Board of Editors.

We are responsible to no student or administrative group affiliated with the University and we jealously guard this freedom from censorship.

With this freedom comes the responsibility to print news in an unbiased manner, to judge the relative importance of news events to the best of our ability and to print the truth whether it be pleasant or unpleasant. We fully realize these responsibilities and will strive to meet them with competence.

Due to space limitations we must be selective in the news we print. News is

judged in relation to all news of the day and the responsibility for this judgment rests solely with the Board of Editors.

The University is largely supported by public funds and therefore we consider most of its affairs to be of public concern. The Collegian feels, for this reason, it has the right to expect information from University officials on matters which pertain to the student body.

The Daily Collegian is not a publicity bulletin for University or private organizations nor is it a public relations leaflet for the University.

The Collegian will print publicity only when it is deemed newsworthy by the Board of Editors.

The Collegian cherishes its right to print all actions or statements made at a public meeting. We will not accept "off the record" as an excuse to have information withheld. There can be nothing "off the record" at a public meeting because all actions and comments are open to public scrutiny.

We, the Board of Editors of The Daily Collegian, intend to pursue these stated policies and to print all news which we consider significant to the student body of this University in an accurate and fair manner, without bias, prejudice or hope of material gain.

... on Commenting on the News

A second and vitally necessary function of this newspaper is to carry comment on news events.

We, the Board of Editors, reserve the right to comment on campus, state, national and international events in an attempt to realize our motto — "For a Better Penn State."

The purpose of this newspaper's editorials is to guide rather than to mold student opinion. We intend to view situations, events and actions analytically and to offer praise or objective criticism as we see fit. Certain students, faculty members and administrators have expressed the belief that Collegian should print only those comments which reflect favorably on the University.

We do not agree.

We believe the best way to better the University is to present the truth about it, to praise its good points and constructively criticize its faults.

One of the main objectives of the

views presented in our editorials is to encourage students to think for themselves. In accordance with our belief, we will often present both sides of an issue.

While our editorials reflect the views of the entire Board of Editors, a closer and more personal view of some aspect of University or world affairs is presented in the by-lined columns of individual editors.

As with news stories, columns are printed only when they meet the requirements of good taste, good writing and well-founded comment. Columns do not necessarily express the opinion of the entire Board of Editors.

Collegian readers, too, have a responsibility. We will strive to present accurate news coverage and responsibly editorials but we expect our readers to objectively criticize our work to insure that we do not accidentally stray from these policies we have pledged ourselves to uphold "For a Better Penn State."

... on Printing Letters to the Editor

A third function of this newspaper is to carry letters from our readers. We welcome student, faculty and administrative comment on news events, our editorial opinions, or on individual opinions expressed in columns.

But as the public expects accuracy, validity and responsibility from the Collegian, we, the Board of Editors, expect responsibility from letter writers.

We will readily accept letters of valid praise, criticism or suggestion. We will not,

however, print letters containing unfounded attacks, accusations or personal grievances which are not relevant to the welfare of the student body.

Letters to the editor must be signed by the author. Before the letter is printed the identification of the author will be checked, as we feel the writer must assume responsibility for the content of his letter. On a few occasions, and only with the consent of the editor, the author's name will be withheld.

We feel this is the only way to operate a newspaper.

The Board of Editors

Letters

War Risk Discussed

TO THE EDITOR: At the end of April the U.S. is going to resume atmospheric testing if a miracle does not occur: the Russian acceptance of an international nuclear weapon control.

Recently, Russia has been accusing the U.S. of a "preventive nuclear attack" on the Soviet Union. Apparently, both sides are so afraid of another war that they are willing to "fight" for peace. But could anybody prevent war by striking first?

It's quite ironic that though both world powers desire peace (meaning: want to "bury" the other by economic means) they are still too suspicious about the other's good intentions. The basic fear of being double-crossed underlines the policy of both the camps.

The sad fact is that both the Western and the Eastern blocs showed inconsistencies with sincerity and honest intentions. Examples: West—Suez crisis, Lebanon, U-2 incident, Cuba, etc.; East—oppression of East European countries, Korea, Poland, Hungary, etc.

The question is not whether mutual atomic tests and bomb shelters are moral and just, but what their effects will be. Will there be a war because of them? A war of aggression, "prevention," misunderstanding, miscalculation, etc.

The cause is irrelevant; the result (effect) is the crucial issue.

Who wants war? Wars never

prove anything. They just disprove man's capacity to live peacefully side by side. They disprove man's claimed superiority over animals.

In case of a war, I would suggest two simple methods to reduce the fighting enthusiasm of world population:

• Required military services for women (equal in voting—equal in fighting.)

• Men between 60 and 35 should be drafted first for battle services.

The reasons behind the latter suggestion is that first young people should be given the chance to live and become as old and wise as the 60-year-old ones. Second, the declaration and conduct of war is made by "mature" older people. If they decide to fight, they should bear the responsibility first. (There is no representative of the young age group in any government.) Third, older people would be able to eliminate their reducing diet. Motto: Don't stay obese, friend, but charge!

Let's stop this pessimistic flow of thoughts and let's think of the future in terms of "peaceful coexistence." Let us have more cultural exchange programs, more Chinese in Russia and more Russians in China and finally more Russians and Chinese in America.

Let's compete economically: let's have a slow and quiet "burial," Mr. Khrushchev, shouldn't we?

—Nick Kolumban '62

Apology to Vice President Johnson

TO THE EDITOR: On Tuesday, April 10, the Board of Editors of The Daily Collegian apologized to Vice President Johnson for the fact that most of the student body wouldn't be able to see or hear him in person. We commend them for this.

But we would like to extend another apology to the Vice President. When President Kennedy visited the University of California, he received an honorary degree, and when Attorney General Robert Kennedy visited Japan, he also received an honorary degree. But when Vice President Johnson

visited Penn State, he was made an honorary freshman.

Even if it was impossible to bestow an academic degree on the Vice President, it was obviously in poor taste to reduce a man of his status and intellectual pursuits to the base rank of a freshman.

Apparently Vice President Johnson had a similar feeling as he rapidly removed the dink and refused to pose for newspaper photographers.

It's surprising that Robert Barraclough didn't command him to "Button, Frosh!"

—N. Stewart, '62

—Bea Gilechrist, '63

—Mary Lou Marple, '63

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 Price: \$3.00 a year

Mailing Address — Box 261, State College, Pa.

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