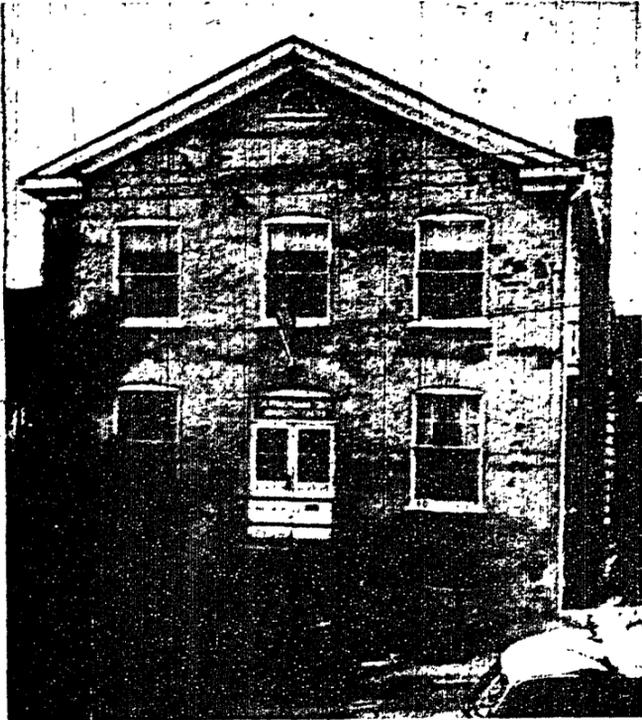


Editorial Opinion

'Campus' Expansion Now in State Hands



Yesterday the University released plans for tripling the capacity of the University's Commonwealth campuses. Neither the idea nor the time schedule is new, but the detailed plans are. They were developed by the University at the request of Charles H. Boehm, state superintendent of public instruction.

We wholeheartedly endorse these plans as the only practical means for the University to fulfill its duty to educate a large proportion of the youth of Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth campus system has proved to be Penn State's "hidden reserve" in educating the ever increasing number of young people seeking a college degree.

This campus is approaching its saturation point. There is a limit to the number of students that can economically and efficiently be taught in a qualified manner on this campus. But, the growth of the Commonwealth campus system will certainly help to expand this physically imposed limit.

At the present time, 3,500 students are enrolled at these branches of the University. In order to expand this number to the scheduled 10,000 by 1970, a tremendous amount of capital must be expended.

The University will ask the state for an additional \$12,800,000 for the construction of more classrooms and other academic buildings on these campuses. In the past, the physical plant of these campuses has, due to lack of funds, been almost totally ignored. This is dramatically and shamefully shown in the picture above which is this University's existing "campus" in Allentown.

Additional funds from the state would help to eliminate this building as a Penn State campus and to build new facilities in Upper Bucks County to provide a campus which would serve the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton area.

Also, an additional \$1,250,000 to \$1,750,000 in annual operating funds would be required in 1970 to run this proposed Commonwealth campus system.

Funds to cover the bulk of these additional expenditures must come from the state. Students cannot bear the entire expense of expansion, nor should they. Private sources, although instrumental in the establishment of many of the Commonwealth campuses, cannot and should not be expected to carry the entire financial burden of this proposed expansion.

The Federal government cannot be counted on to aid the expansion of the state's educational facilities.

Thus, by elimination as well as by moral obligation, the main responsibility for financing this expansion rests where it should, with the state.

The various states were given the duty to educate their citizens. As the demand for college graduates grows and as more and more young people demand a college education, the state must provide the funds to educate those who want a college degree.

In the future a large part of Penn State's role in educating this growing number of students in Pennsylvania will come through the expansion of the Commonwealth campus system.

The University has laid the plans. Now the state must accept its educational responsibilities and financially support these plans which directly serve the educational interests of both the young and old in the state of Pennsylvania.

It's Time to Talk in Laos

(Rene-Georges Inagaki, now stationed in Tokyo, has spent much of the last two years in Laos. He has reported the repeated crises, military and political, in that Communist-threatened jungle kingdom.)

By RENE-GEORGES INAGAKI

TOKYO (AP) — Fight, talk, fight, talk.

That has been the Communist pattern in Laos for seven years.

Based on past performance and present statements, the Pathet Lao and its Communist backers in North Viet Nam and Red China now believe the time has come to talk again.

Prince Souphanouvong's Pathet Lao would like nothing better than to take over the control of all Laos at one swoop. But its leaders know this cannot be done without the great risk of direct retaliation

by Western forces. So they probably will not expand their recent military success in northwestern Laos into a general offensive.

This is particularly so since the United States is moving into adjoining Thailand with a combat force of about 5,000 men and planes.

Sudden Pathet Lao thrusts, backed by the North Vietnamese, have thrown the royal Laotian army into panic several times in the past. The attacks have always been local and unexploited.

Last week while the royal army and the population at Houei Sai fled pell mell across the Mekong River to Thailand,

the pursuing force, though virtually unopposed, never attempted to go into the border town.

The Pathet Lao may do so at a later date, but so far it has avoided taking any town along the Mekong, where the river forms the border with Thailand, because of possible intervention by the United States or the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

With the capture of Muong Sing and Nam Tha, the pro-Communists have cleared northwestern Laos of royal army resistance and once again made their point—that the government had better resume talks.

Interpreting

De Gaulle Continues Rebellion

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

Charles de Gaulle continues his rebellion against the Anglo-American monopoly of control over the nuclear defenses of Europe and against any thought of changing the Allied position in Berlin.

The French president staged what appears to have been a carefully arranged press conference Tuesday, with pat answers prepared for a set of questions after a brief preliminary statement. You have to search beneath the surface for much that is new, and even then you find little.

Unfortunately for the aging De Gaulle, his voice could barely be heard against the beating of tom toms in Southeast Asia. He still seems to be relying upon misconceptions about French power and what it might produce.

To oversimplify, he now classes the dissolution of the French empire as a "disengagement" so that France can concentrate on development of her own strength, particularly nuclear strength, for a return to great power status.

He publicly confesses the right of the United States, a point on which President Kennedy seems to be adamant, to conduct exploratory negotiations with the Communists over Berlin, but reaffirms his en-

tente with West Germany against giving these negotiations any substance. Berlin's status has been established once, he says, by the World War II victors, and no change is required or desirable.

In that he is supported by a considerable nonofficial opinion in Britain and the United States, but not in the White House or London.

Where De Gaulle gets on the most questionable ground is his thought that, if France can have an independent nuclear

deterrent, she will become once more, automatically, a great power.

First, one requirement for classification as a great power is national duty, which France does not have and has not had for many years.

There is also a suspicion in some quarters that despite the knowhow of atomic weaponry, France lacks the people, the space, and the industrial capacity either for establishment of a big nuclear force or its use as a separate deterrent.

Letters

Good Acoustical Auditorium Backed by Grad Student

TO THE EDITOR: The following is a reply to the article "Wharton Asks Committee to Study Possibility of Building Auditorium." (Daily Collegian, Tuesday, May 15th.)

I quote: "Wharton said he learned that if the capacity is more than 3,000 persons, maximum acoustical facilities must be sacrificed. The question in our minds," he explained, "is should we sacrifice acoustics for more seating?"

"Wharton said that with the growing size of the student body, it will eventually be necessary to hold several showings of single events.

"In that case," he said, "do a few more seats really mean anything?"

Yes, is my answer! I believe that the two questions raised by Wharton must be dealt with justly, as they are of prime importance. After all, what are the two major characteristics of a good auditorium? The best possible acoustics and visibility.

Therefore, it seems rather ridiculous to spend enormous sums of money to erect a modern auditorium which will be far less superior acoustically, than it potentially could be, mainly because a sacrifice of enlargement was made to accommodate an overflow of students!

A capacity of 3,000 persons is more than double the present capacity of Schwab. For events

such as Artist Series concerts, guest lecturers, etc., the present "first-come first-serve policy" would no doubt be adequate for an auditorium which is double the size of the present one.

I believe this policy is not unfair, and one can note it exists in most all major theatres and concert halls everywhere.

For any worthwhile event there is always more demand than can be accommodated.

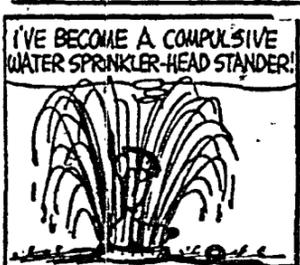
I am aware of the fact that the University's enrollment increases each year (however, the incoming enrollment has been drastically cut for September 1962) but must we foolishly throw away the pleasures of a first-rate auditorium for the present, in anticipation for conditions in the future? For we must realize that if standards are not optimum now, they will never be, regardless of the student body size.

Then too, we must realize, some of the world's leading scholars, musicians, and theatrical groups visit our campus each year.

Shouldn't we provide them the best vehicle of presentations possible, as well as providing ourselves with the most rewarding and stimulating experience conceivable.

Again, I say, don't sacrifice quality for quantity!

—Phillip Miller
Grad Student



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