

Bigness in Education

(The Daily Collegian today presents contrasting views on the question of "bigness" in Pennsylvania's educational system. The first view was stated in an editorial on May 21 in the Philadelphia Inquirer. The second view on the subject is that of the Collegian Board of Editors.)

Another View

(Reprinted from The Philadelphia Inquirer)

Pennsylvania State University's expansion program—calling for a tripling of the enrollment at widely scattered regional campuses by 1970—needs to be viewed in broad, well-rounded perspective. Expansion prospects for not only Penn State but all of the other 14 State colleges in Pennsylvania should be considered—along with a hundred private colleges and various specialized institutions of higher learning, many receiving federal and state aid.

The projected enrollment of Penn State eight years hence is 35,000. The University already exceeds by a substantial margin the total enrollments of all the other 14 state colleges combined. Two of the state colleges have under a thousand students. Most of the others have fewer than 1,500.

It seems to us that some of the money proposed for expansion of Penn State's regional campuses as well might be used to better advantage educationally and administratively, if earmarked for expansion of the 14 smaller state colleges.

We in Pennsylvania ought to stop emphasizing bigness in education.

Our View

The Philadelphia Inquirer stated editorially that the expansion program at the University needs to be "viewed in broad, well-rounded perspective."

We agree. However, we ask: Have the citizens of the state done this in the past or are they doing it now? We think it is about time that Pennsylvania take a good look at the poor education system that currently exists in the state in a "broad, well-rounded perspective."

Certainly, the state colleges and other institutions which receive state aid should be expanded. But, the question immediately arises—how can Pennsylvania best prepare for the overwhelming increase in college students expected to hit Pennsylvania's campuses before 1970?

We feel that the University's Commonwealth campuses are a very vital link in establishing a strong chain of educational facilities across the state. In the past, Penn State's appropriation has been cut back and reduced from the amount needed to maintain these facilities adequately.

The Inquirer editorial implies that the proposed sum of money for the University's Commonwealth campus expansion is more than is needed and therefore that the state can afford to cut back on this appropriation and allot some of it to state colleges. We strongly disagree. This is the amount necessary to make our campuses qualified institutions of higher learning.

We feel that any cutback, which would make this goal impossible, will hurt the educational setup in the state. It will mean that facilities already available will not function to their fullest. It means that the University will not be able to fulfill its pledge to the state—to enroll 35,000 students yearly by 1970—a pledge which state officials seem to consider necessary in order to accommodate all prospective students at that time.

The Inquirer editorial concludes—"We in Pennsylvania ought to stop emphasizing bigness in education." We read this with disbelief.

Bigness stems from necessity—the necessity of providing the opportunity for a college education for the hundreds of thousands of young people in the United States today and the necessity of using the available finances in the most efficient manner.

The University, having detailed plans for additional facilities and the willingness and the experience to handle large numbers of students, plans to increase its enrollment to 35,000 by 1970 to meet the increased demands and then to level off the enrollment at that figure as demand levels off.

We feel that financial discouragement from the state would leave the University and the people of the state who demand added educational facilities with their hands unfairly tied.

2 cents worth

Planning A Compromise?

by dave runkel

In the last few months the public of the United States has been made increasingly aware of the problems involved with both the quantity supply and the quality of this nation's water reserves.

One of the growing water problems is that a soapy foam, similar to the head on a glass of beer, has formed on the top of glasses of water in several communities around the nation. This foam has been attributed to detergents in the water which cannot be filtered out or treated with the existing sewage treatment methods.

While this area has no "foamy water" problems now nor any foreseeable ones, these same detergents were the cause of a state Fish Commission edict last fall ordering the University to halt the pollution of Spring Creek within two years.

Detergents in the effluent from the University's sewage treatment plant have caused the growth of plant life in Spring Creek, which consumes much of the available oxygen in the creek. In some times of the year, the plants do not leave enough oxygen to maintain the large numbers of fish inhabiting the creek.

This problem has risen so quickly that just last fall University officials thought they had a unique problem on their hands. At that time it was believed the situation was just a local one stemming from the size of Spring Creek and the number of fish inhabiting it.

It was the general consensus both here and within the Fish Commission that a larger stream could sufficiently dilute

these detergents and solve the problem.

At the present time, the enforcement of the Fish Commission order has been delayed by an appeal by the University in the state courts.

However, if the University loses the court case, it could have to spend estimated millions of dollars constructing new sewage facilities or providing some other method of halting the flow of these detergents into Spring Creek.

Recently, rumors of a "deal" between the University and the Fish Commission have been popping up. The five-month delay on the hearing of the University's appeal has given an added influence to these rumors. This is especially so since the appeal was originally scheduled for the court's January term. This court term ended in March.

It seems that the University would gladly settle the case out of court for a chance to begin

research on methods of treating sewage which would eliminate these multi-syllable compounds which are sold in every grocery store with single-syllable names.

If Pennsylvania would provide part of the money to carry out this research, it would become at least the third state to begin a study of this problem within the last few months. New York and Wisconsin have recently begun research in this field.

The state lost its chance to be one of the leaders in the study of this problem last February when the State House voted down a proposal which was passed by the Senate allocating \$200,000 to the University for an investigation of this situation.

But now the problem seems to have become nationwide instead of local and the chances of the University having to expend millions of dollars to build new facilities grows slimmer.

Interpreting

Chinese Expansion

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst Red China, already deeply involved as a supporter of the Communist guerrilla warfare in Indochina, is setting up one more within her territory the "sanctuary" system of bases she employed in the Korean War, and making noises as she did before her intervention there.

The situation may well face the United States with the early necessity of making new decisions about the "sanctuary" system, and it would seem unlikely the decision will be the same as in 1950.

If all out war comes to Indochina the situation will be different from that of Korea.

This will not be a narrow front relatively easy to defend, and the number of Asians available for defense of the longer front will not be in proportion to the South Korean forces. Nor will there be any heroic patriotic figure such as Syngman Rhee around whom the armies can rally. The Thais will fight in self-defense, but what the others will do, lacking as they are in any real attachment to their government, is only a guess—and a not too hopeful guess.

It may be that an unequivocal warning to Red China, citing the obsolescence of the

"sanctuary" idea under the circumstances, is in order before she puts too much reliance upon it. Once an overwhelming buildup of support bases is complete and a massive Chinese infiltration starts, effective retaliation would present a serious threat of general war.

Red China's immediate intentions, beyond logistic support of the Laotian and Vietnamese guerrillas, are not known.

There are reasons, however—and this has been true for more than a year—to fear that Peiping will soon resort to dangerous adventures in order to stave off the political results of economic failures in a search for living space which she dare not seek—as yet—in Siberia.

The massive infiltration of Hong Kong by Chinese who may or may not be true refugees already has led to fears that Peiping eventually will come up with a Sudetan-like claim such as Hitler made against Czechoslovakia. The Chinese Reds are great for planning—though neither wise or successful in carrying it out—and we may be seeing the beginning of broad political-military push toward territory objectives which long have been entertained by the Chinese-non-Communist as well as Communist.

Letters

Poor Lighting On Ag Hill Hit by Coeds

TO THE EDITOR: In a recent incident a University coed was assaulted alongside one of the busiest spots on campus. It is our opinion that the administration must be completely oblivious to the panic that has arisen on the part of coeds who find it necessary to leave their residence halls in the evening hours; for the administration has failed to take the most preliminary steps to counteract this menace.

We find that action is severely lacking in the following areas:

- We have not seen adequate camping of the areas along Curtin Road between Rec Hall and Shortlidge Road by the Campus Patrol.

- Patrol cars on certain of the main roads fail to provide adequate surveillance of the inter paths on campus.

- Lighting along Curtin Road, on Ag Hill and in the North Halls areas is completely inadequate.

It seems ludicrous that North Halls have been occupied since 1959 and adequate lighting has still not been provided. If the administration sees fit to allocate its money to construct residence halls in their present locations, why not provide adequate protection for the residents of these halls? Perhaps the reason lies in the fact that our administration fails to recognize the seriousness of the matter. Will a future incident bridge this gap to recognition?

—Adele Wilson '64

—Deborah Salisbury '64

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