

Editorial Opinion

Approve Voluntary ROTC

(See related story on page 1)

The type of Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program offered to liberal arts students will be resolved today by the University Senate.

For years the question of voluntary versus compulsory ROTC has been debated back and forth over this campus. Always before there has been an argument between those in favor of voluntary ROTC and those opposed to the voluntary program.

But now, with the subject reaching debate on the floor of the Senate for the first time in several years, it seems the emphasis of the argument has shifted from the pros and cons of voluntary ROTC to whether this University should take action now or wait for action by the federal government.

This summer the Departments of the Army and Air Force formulated still another set of plans on ROTC.

This is the latest in a long list of proposals submitted by the two departments since the end of the Korean War.

The Department of the Navy has a selective ROTC program at present and thus has not taken part in any of the newest proposals.

These latest plans would install a two-year voluntary program for college juniors and seniors. This has been designed, according to reports, to replace eventually the present Army and Air Force ROTC programs although these programs would still be offered. It has been reported that the military hopes to phase out the older system if and when the new plans are approved.

The new proposals have already been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget. If that department approves them, they will be sent to the President and then to Congress.

The earliest date for the installation of such a program would be next fall. This would occur only if the proposals sailed through the red tape of official Washington in near record time.

The programs must be considered by the Budget Director, the President, by committees in both houses of the Congress, must be debated by the Congress and the bill signed by the President before the Defense Department would be able to implement the program.

It is also quite possible that the plans may never be approved or that they may be altered by the Budget Director or the Congress so that they are passed in a different form than now proposed.

We doubt if the bill will sail smoothly through both the executive and legislative branches of the federal government in one year. Thus we doubt whether the new programs could be implemented before the fall of 1964 and quite possibly several years later than that.

For these reasons, we believe the Senate of this University should take immediate action to put ROTC on a voluntary basis before federal action is taken. It may never come.

In addition we believe that eventually a voluntary program should be instituted for all students. Administratively and practically this is the only way the program could be run.

We do not believe that what is good for liberal arts students is bad or undesirable for students in the other eight colleges of the University.

But, for now we feel it is necessary for the voluntary program to be instituted for liberal arts students since it was this faculty and student council that proposed and have studied the idea.

The College of Liberal Arts has studied the change and how it would be adapted to its curricula. Research has led the liberal arts planning committee to advocate voluntary ROTC. We hope their recommendation will be approved.

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kaleidoscope

Coloring Book Craze

by kay mills

Whip out the crayons, gang — the coloring book craze continues.

This news item hardly comes as any revelation to you because the books have been booming ever since the gold-lettered executive variety appeared months ago. Now we may browse through coloring exercises about the Kennedy crowd, the John Birchers (or is it Birchites?) and the campus set. Maybe there are others but this sampling provides you with an idea of what the hoop-la is all about.

The coloring books provide a good way to laugh at ourselves. They also make that "different" gift for the folks at home who may not share with us these intellectual opportunities.

This summer I entered into the craze by sending the executive book to some friends of the family. Their daughter enjoyed the true spirit of the thing but was somewhat stymied when she came to the page where the v.i.p. said, "Color me important."

The super-duper deluxe boxes of crayons are well stocked these days — mahogany they have, but "important" they do not.

For those who have not yet joined the inevitable browsing crowd, these coloring books examine contemporary social and political life with a vocabulary reminiscent of the "Dick and Jane" stories we read in elementary school.



MISS MILLS

You remember those: "Look. Look at Jane. See Jane. See funny Jane. See funny Jane run. Look, look, look." Of course, at this point funny Jane was probably running directly toward the narrator swinging brother's baseball bat in anger.

To continue the digression for a moment, I suppose the stories taught their reading lesson. The one point that has always worried me, however, was that the father never took off his suit jacket. He had it on when he came home from work, at dinner, played catch with Dick or called Puff, the cat.

Returning to coloring books, it appears that nothing is safe from someone's attempts at humor these days, least of all the Presidential party. This book is served up family style — which really isn't too difficult — with daughter Caroline narrating. Perhaps after Teddy's victory in the Massachusetts Democratic primary, the publishers can issue a second edition strictly on the clan and leave out all those other government figures which somehow crept into the original version.

Success always stimulates imitators so I thought today I'd try my hand concerning Penn State scene. There is, I realize, a campus coloring book with some telling line about college characters. ("We are the newspaper editors. We are crusading, honest, objective and true. Color us fast before we're expelled.") Local campus problems, however, have been neglected.

The book could begin — as

everything about the University does — with an outline of Old Main. "This is Old Main. Color it silent."

Then a quick "pan" to Pattee Library. "This is our library. Color it understocked." And inside to the book shelves. "Here is a textbook which 324 students in one class must read by Thursday. Color it 'Reserved. 2-Hour Limit.'"

Now out to Beaver Stadium: "We make money here. Listen to the turnstiles click. Click, click, click. Today's game is a sellout. Color the stadium crowded. Color everybody happy. Very happy."

As the football crowd moves victoriously to the HUB, our narrator enters the Lion's Den. "Here is a typical student hangout. Typical students hang out here. Color it noisy."

We move to a lonely table near the wall. "There is a freshman. He is homesick. Color him blue."

Speaking of blue, we are reminded that the coloring books make little mention of colors as we know them. The old red, white and blue stuff, you know. "Red" or "pinko" are indeed about the only shades which get extensive treatment in several of the books.

Gone are the days when coloring books concerned animals, children, cowboys or movie stars. Now we have to weigh the merits of educating the young public with a cynical view of politics and life in general even though he may become color blind in the process from lack of exposure to the real hues.

All of this moves me to make one last comment about this column: "Color it finished."

Letters

Frosh Urges Discontinuance Of Customs

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to take issue with the opinion on Freshmen Customs expressed by Miss Lee Birchall in the Thursday edition of The Daily Collegian and reinforce those of Dennis Newton. A few of the arguments in favor of customs are to create unity and a sense of belonging, creation of school spirit, and one which Miss Birchall points out, "to enable the newcomers to appreciate the assets of a higher education."

As Mr. Newton pointed out, whether desirable or not the possibility of uniting a group as large as the freshman class is almost impossible, especially by such a scheme as customs. I don't see how customs can succeed in making a person feel that he is a part of the University community.

The result of submitting the already bewildered, and insecure freshman to embarrassment and various indignities can only serve to alienate rather than draw him closer to the University.

One of the favorite arguments upperclassmen use in enforcing customs is that it is good for school spirit. But, is school spirit something that can be created or forced on an individual? I believe that this type of feeling is false and superficial.

True school spirit should come from a sincere love and respect for the University. This feeling grows from attending classes and athletic contests and from a true appreciation of the benefits of the school and not from being made to make a public spectacle of ones self.

Miss Birchall stated that customs enables "the newcomer to appreciate the assets of a higher education," a process of learning which extends past the textbook.

True many of the advantages of college are outside the classroom, but I see little connection between the dignified pursuit of higher education and the degradation and childishness of freshman customs.

— David Bartram '68

Best Men Available?

TO THE EDITOR: President Eric Walker has just accepted another great loss to Penn State in the resignation of Professor Howard Cutler, "with great regret." But our leader takes pride in the knowledge that other institutions continue to look at Penn State in their search for new leadership.

In fact, they are looking awfully hard at us, and with rather devastating effects on Penn State. Is it possible that they are finding our best men a little on the available side?

If so, why is this? In the words of the last speaker on the TOCS radio broadcast of December 13, 1960: "... What we propose for ourselves (and we invite our colleagues—faculty and administration—to join us) is to stop observing the contemporary scene, and take a look at what's going on around here."

—Ray Pepinsky

A Freudian Analysis

TO THE EDITOR: Perhaps the Customs Board has not heard of Freud? However, he certainly has heard of it.

This fostering of wholesale sadism in the name of school spirit is a gross insult to an institution of higher learning.

I suggest the Customs Board have its head shrunk and this "begin the year with mass humiliation-torture tradition" be ended.

—Rozanne Holtz '64

Dzvonik Candidacy Questioned

TO THE EDITOR: And so it came to pass that His Eminence Dzvonik spoke of "good student government" and agreed with Fair Maiden Allison Woodall and Fair Maiden Anne Morris not to nominate candidates for the Congress of the gods. In dealing with the crucial affairs of state, His Eminence and the Fair Maidens advocated non-partisanship for the USC Congress, as the best way to insure "good student government."

The Fair Maidens, both of them able and experienced members of Congress, felt it was their duty and obligation not to run for Congress, in order to safeguard non-partisanship; on his part, however, His Eminence felt that he must run, in order to safeguard non-partisanship. And so the election by his peers is to decide the issue—whether this "non-partisan" party chairman should be admitted to the sacred halls of "good student government."

—George Gordon '64

Miscellaneous thoughts: There has only been one nice day since the class of '68 arrived on campus—yesterday... wondering when the University is going to appoint a vice president in charge of signs to oversee the actions of the committee on signs... remodeling of the Nittany Theatre, better known as the "armpit," does away with just one more campus landmark... —Prof Wayne

