

Letters

Lack of Organization Blamed For Poor Library Service

TO THE EDITOR: The letter of Messrs. Newman and Yoskin in the Oct. 20 Collegian is, I believe representative of general campus opinion growing out of dissatisfaction with library service. There is much more to be said on this subject.

The dreary forecast concerning Penn State's rise to a leading position among American universities is pure poppycock. This can never be achieved without an efficient library system, and we are a considerable distance from that desirable goal.

The most disturbing and dismaying aspect of the situation is that large amounts of money are being poured into the library to build up book collections, raise staff salaries and supposedly improve service.

The results? Growth rate of collections—no spectacular increase; staff—substandard in size and quality; service—poor. And this library program, they tell me, is now costing approximately one million dollars per year!

In my opinion, the primary factor in this enormous fiasco is the internal organization of the library. The Pattee Library of today is, in terms of organizational structure, essentially the same outfit it was under Penn State College, circa 1940. Two decades haven't significantly altered administrative attitudes and the concept of small-scale operation.

Applied to a trebled student body and a vastly expanded program of instruction and research, the library techniques of yesterday can hardly be expected to be adequate. Yet they are still employed to the detriment of the University and its prestige.

The solution is to be found not alone in increased financial support, not alone in personal recruitment programs, but in a genuine revitalization and renewal from within the library. Only in this way can Penn State ever hope to be numbered among the great institutions of learning.

—D. H. Axman

Monthly Fire Drills Termed 'Worthless'

TO THE EDITOR: Just yesterday I mentioned to my roommate that we were about due for a fire drill, and tonight my calculations were proven correct. Every month at 11:45 with monotonous regularity we file out of the dorm to the clanging fire gong. No one panics. But then, why panic, it's time for a drill.

I submit that these monthly drills after curfew are worthless except that they do reawaken a few sleepy people who have to study for bluebooks. If that gong ever sounded during the day there would be chaos. It would have to be a real fire because we never have drills during the day? Also, what about a fire while people are eating in the dining hall? This poses a new problem. There are more people, crowded conditions, and no previously practiced exits.

What about civil defense? We have never had an air raid drill. Where do we go? What do we do?

Some felt that our reputation as an institution of higher learning was being threatened by the publication of Froth. Serious and decisive action was taken. This matter concerns our lives!

—Phyllis Gurbarg, '63

Plan Submitted To Raise Standard Of Campus Morals

TO THE EDITOR: I have been reading with a great deal of interest the various fulminations about the Froth suspension, and frankly, most of them miss the main point. The deed is done and can only be accorded the status of past history. The students can only recede into grumbling apathy, or attempt significant positive action of an entirely new type.

The administrative reaction was designed to protect the "good name of the University." Why can't students further this aim by creating and supporting a comprehensive plan to uplift the moral level of Penn State? The following are a few suggestions for such a plan:

- All University regulations shall be vigorously applied.
- The amount and extent of campus lighting shall be weekly increased.
- "Formal" bed checks shall be instituted.
- Signout sheets shall be expanded to include detailed information on destination, including a telephone number. The actual presence of the student shall be randomly checked.
- No student, regardless of age, shall be allowed within one mile of a state store, or within 100 feet of a bar. As in present policy, this shall apply outside the limits of Centre County as well.
- All fraternities shall be "dry," and parking lots shall be patrolled. Also, the authority of housemothers shall be extended to include town apartments rented by fraternity men.
- Buses shall be made unten-

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Israeli Incidents Related

TO THE EDITOR: In the article entitled "Arms, Israel and the Arab World," Mr. Krantz has sensed a critical problem. The arms race in the Middle East has escalated dangerously in recent years. As I recall, it started to become dangerous in 1956 when the United States failed to support the U.N. and also tampered with the British position in Suez.

We in the United States tend to place the U.N. on a very high plane. Just to let a little air out of our tires and put things in their proper perspective, allow me to relate a story.

While I was in Israel this summer, the Israeli intelligence network uprooted a U.N. officer spying for Syria. It seems he gave some tactical information concerning mortar locations of Israeli installations. I don't believe the story quite made it 5,000 miles to the West. It is just one of many I could relate.

Also, presently Egypt does not allow Israeli shipping in the Suez Canal—highly illegal.

I purposely brought these points to confuse the issue and to show that it is not clear and simple. We are like Indians doing a rain dance during a drought. While we are acutely aware of the problem, we have no clear-cut solution.

The first problem for the U.S.

is simply, whom do we support? I could give a hundred reasons why we should support Israel, such as their love for democracy, their support of the U.S. position on Cuba while Egypt condemned us on the floor of the Security Council (Oct. 24). I am sure Mr. Krantz can match me reason for reason why we should support the Arabs.

I am sure that King Hussein thanks the transcendent being before retiring each night that there is an Israel between Jordan and Egypt. There is only one thing an Arab hates worse than a Jew and that is an Arab of different nationality. Also, although Israel displays a touch of chauvinism, Jew and Israeli can't be entirely separated.

Now that I have confused the issue beyond hope, I would like to make one concluding remark. What a great blessing—to all the peoples of the Middle East—if President Nasser could be influenced to accept the advice he has proffered to others and to sit and talk with Mr. Ben Gurion about the dangerous and costly arms race in the Mediterranean.

—R. Joel Brumberg, '64

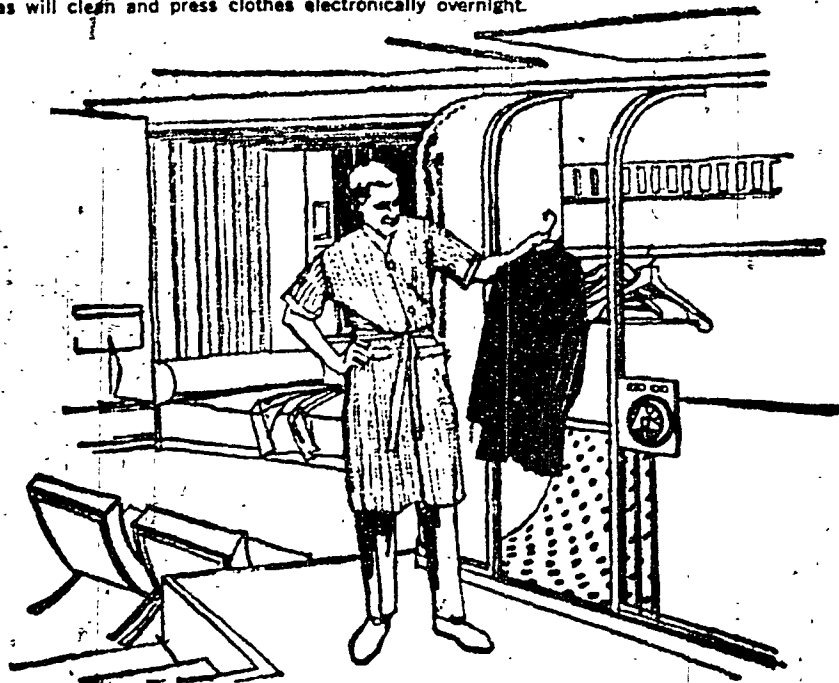
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