

Editorial Opinion

Education Council Needed To Coordinate Branch Colleges

The field of higher education is expanding with more and more young Americans wanting to attend college. In this state the boom in higher education is being met largely with the establishment of branch colleges.

This University has long had a system of centers and campuses throughout the state. At the present time there are 13 Commonwealth Campuses of The Pennsylvania State University.

The University of Pittsburgh has had a branch college in Johnstown for nearly 20 years. It had several other branches thirty years ago, but dropped them after several years of operation.

Within the last two months Pitt has announced significant plans for the establishment of two more branches. Pitt officials have also announced plans for a \$6 million improvement program for its Johnstown branch.

Temple University has one branch. And in recent years, especially in recent months, the state colleges have set up branches, many of them night schools for adults, in many of the smaller cities and towns of the state.

The establishment of all these branch colleges has been the unilateral action of the schools involved.

We believe it is time for a unifying and guiding hand to be applied to these necessary expansion plans.

Pennsylvania is blessed with an extensive system of colleges and universities, both public and private. Many of them, including some private schools such as Pitt and Temple, receive state aid.

But each of these schools has been making its own decisions on expansion.

Even with the numerous institutions of higher learning in Pennsylvania there is an outstanding need for more educational facilities. Less than 30 per cent of the state's high school graduates are going on to college. This figure is well below the average of other large industrial states.

The problem is bigger than any one college or university can solve. Unification is needed to fulfill all of the demands for education. A working state-wide plan for higher education is needed.

President Walker has long backed such a proposal. Governor-elect Scranton has promised that a state board of education, outside the political arena, will be organized to govern Pennsylvania's entire educational system from kindergarten through graduate schools.

We hope that a separate council of higher education composed of educators and other civic leaders concerned with giving some guidance to the expansion of higher education of this state, will be included within the board.

We urge President Walker to continue and give new life to his campaign for an effective Council of Higher Education. We suggest that he convene, on his own authority as the president of The Pennsylvania State University, a meeting of the presidents of all the colleges and universities of the state which have branch expansion plans. This group could act as a lobbying force in Harrisburg to promote the establishment of an effective agency to insure coordination of expansion efforts.

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soft touch

The Optimists and I

by donnan beeson

The State College Optimist Club has proclaimed this week to be "Youth Appreciation Week." Isn't it wonderful to feel as if you are appreciated?

For this entire week, we can raise our youthful heads and strut around on our youthful feet with appreciation just oozing out of our hearts.

"Pat 'em on the back," the posters say. We can anticipate sore backs at the end of this glorious week, can we not? Ah, I find it hard to express how indebted I am to the local crew of optimists for making such a MISS BEESON designation.



And optimists they are to think that said pats on the back will be forthcoming.

Many people, out of sheer habit, will be unable to recognize us for all the good deeds we have performed this year. They are too

used to blaming us for their frailties and citing places where we have shown a definite lack of responsibility. Is it not youth's prerogative to be irresponsible at times? Would it not be a sadder story if these lapses were carried over into our Old Age? In addition, they are perhaps too bound up in their preparations for Mother's or Father's or Elder's or just Day Day.

No, I fear that we will not have to spend our days this week dodging pats on our backs. This very fear is instilled in us by just those people who see no value in our actions and not only hesitate to praise but rarely take note. When are we not going to be "too young to know?"

What has escaped many people's thinking (and even our own at times, I admit) is that we are their backbone and we will take over when they leave. Our thinking has been colored by theirs and after all, we wouldn't be here if it weren't for them.

Another thing to remember during this hallowed week is that

although we've been working under the duress of television and sports cars and General Suburbia, we have had a harder time getting the things that came somewhat easily to those who went before us. Getting into college and staying there was no problem in Those Days because there were not so many youths to educate.

But now we are in competition. We compete for everything and it's stiffer than price competition between manufacturers. It is not very often that we can get out of the competition and relax our jangled nerves.

Some students will throw their coveted high mark races out the window and compete with their cohorts to see who can cut the most classes to go home for a holiday that occurs this week. They will lose any pats on the back they might have gotten by doing so.

I am going to stay here in State College with the optimist and see if I can't rack up more pats than anyone else.

Letters

Coed Disputes Silver's View Of 'Americans'

TO THE EDITOR: In reply to the letter of Edward Silver '63, "The All American Boy," I deduce that what it means to be a "good American" is to be from an "outstanding American family," attend a "fine American institution," eat in the "fine dining halls" of the institution, and wear "fine clothes."

I do not believe that the blind preservation of these "fine" institutions makes good Americans. If one endeavored to question the value and use of these "fine" institutions, one might realize that they are not only unnecessary, but sometimes harmful to the making of a "good American."

To cite an outstanding case where "fine institutions" were unnecessary to making a good American, I might mention Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln was not born of an outstanding American family, his mother died when he was nine years old; the Bible was not read to him daily in a "fine" American school; he did not receive his education paid for by his parents at a "fine" American university, and I doubt that he wore "fine" clothes at every meal.

Yet, it is impossible to deny that Abraham Lincoln was a good American. According to Mr. Silver's theories, "Abe" couldn't be president in 1962, as he would need an outstanding American family, ten million dollars, and a Harvard degree.

In Abe's day, however, to be a good American meant to act in behalf of the democratic principles of the Constitution. Nowadays, according to Mr. Silver's theories, it is only necessary to hate the Russians and espouse traditional American institutions - this possibly can be harmful to the making of Americans. When one does not understand the true meaning of democracy but merely gives lip service to its so-called institutions, one is being truly un-American.

-Bonnie Benka '65

Junior Laments Nixon's Defeat

TO THE EDITOR: The American people, students in particular, were able to witness firsthand in the election just past, the magnificent exercising of the popular will. The power of the people in choosing their leaders, something which the United States displays to the world like a new car in a showroom, has seemingly taken a reversal which is causing students to wonder if it is this same divine system they are studying.

The untimely, unfortunate obliteration of one of the most brilliant, ambitious political careers this nation has produced this century, has been dealt by the same political system we extol and worship. Richard Nixon owes little to the Republican Party, less to the state of California, and nothing to the American people.

Because his ambition and intellect motivated him to run his campaign in 1960 singlehandedly,

because his pallid, worn-out visage, before the television cameras betrayed the oppressive emotional strain under which he suffered, because he was unwilling to sink to his adversary's level in California he now joins hands with the nation's political "has-beens," unable to serve the state and nation for which he labored but from which he received nothing but repudiation.

The American people will doubtless soon forget the already shopworn view of Nixon before the cameras conceding victory to the mightier opposition.

But experts and students of politics alike will delve and probe into American political history of the past half-decade and will be at loss to explain the apparent inefficiency and disappointment of a system and doctrine which has kept America prosperous and stable for nearly two centuries.

-Mark Schwarz, '64

Policy on Attendance Blasted

TO THE EDITOR: I see by the release of a memo to the College of the Liberal Arts that the administration has embarked on its annual policy of appearing foolish around Thanksgiving.

It is true that it is their privilege to tie the year into four neat uniform little packages and to declare thus and such days holidays as they see fit. It is also their privilege to ignore the wishes of a large segment of the student body and faculty, the very people the administration was created to serve, by not declaring an extended Thanksgiving holiday.

This year they have compounded their folly by attempting to force class attendance on one particular day, Friday, Nov. 23. This most recent stunt is ludicrous and only emphasizes the validity

of the point of view that many people choose to make Thanksgiving an extended week-end holiday, regardless of administration fiat.

Even allowing that it may be a net loss to some student not to attend his classes next Friday, but why more of a loss than any other ordinary class day; why should attendance be emphasized on that day? Why not let the students make their own choice? (They are going to anyway.)

Finally, there has been a lot of talk around here about student rights, a lot of it unfounded. However, there is one right that the students should have, and that is the right to expect responsible behavior from the administration. On this issue it appears that they are not going to get it.

-Kenneth Hanson Grad student

Silver's Views on 'Dress' Rejected

TO THE EDITOR: Edward Silver, in his letter to the editor of Nov. 15, seemed to express the idea that dirtiness was related to atheism. He furthermore pointed out that we were indecent enough to wear clothes suitable for peasants. Frequently it is easier to moralize than to try to understand both sides of the issue.

I don't believe that there is anything in any religion that says dressing "like peasants" is wrong. In fact the Bible itself is concerned mainly with peasants. This custom of "dressing up" is not a reflection of proper religious upbringing, but rather a reflection of our narcissistic and materialistic society.

Our dining halls are cafeteria style. It is therefore appropriate to dress casually, and is not in bad taste to wear slacks.

Aside from the irony of his conception of religion being centered about "proper" attire, it is also irreligious that he should

attack those whose viewpoint differs from his own by calling them "dirty atheists." Name calling will never eliminate the opposite point of view nor persuade anyone that your viewpoint is superior. I also doubt very much that there is any correlation between dirtiness and atheism.

I think it marvelous that the University considers us adult enough to be able to choose what to wear and I don't feel that the student body abuses this privilege.

-Janet Blank '65

Sloppiness Criticized

TO THE EDITOR: I was reminded Friday of the overpowering sense of responsibility and foresight of some members of West Halls as the pile of discarded papers on the floor in front of the mail boxes grew and grew. Down with wastepaper baskets! Keep up the great work gang - for a better Penn State.

-Esther Kelly, '65

WDFM Schedule

- TUESDAY, NOV. 20
- 6:00 Dinner Date: Light vocals and instrumental
- 6:00 This Week at the U.N.
- 6:15 Weathercasts with Joel Myers
- 6:29 Contemporary Classics
- 7:30 Highlight: Emil Soe-IFC President
- 7:40 Sports Parade
- 7:55 News
- 8:00 Sound of Folk Music: Featuring Gui Carawan and Sandy Paton
- 8:55 Sports News
- 9:00 Meet the Professor: Dr. Dennis Stevens, visiting professor of music
- 9:15 Mostly Music
- 10:00 Symphonic Notebook: Classical Period of Music: Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven
- 12:00 News