

Editorial Opinion

1962 in Retrospect

As sure as New Year's Eve means "cheer," horns, hats and music, the New Year itself means resolutions—both new and renewed. The Daily Collegian is one of many organizations striving for the betterment of The Pennsylvania State University. Our way of doing this is to provide the students of this University with a newspaper which will be of true service and value.

During the year 1962, we made suggestions, we crusaded, we praised and we criticized. We experienced the invigorating sensation of seeing suggestions for a better Penn State being put into effect and experienced bitter disappointment at events which, in our opinion, degraded the University.

We would like to review what we consider to be main issues of the past year, our stands on them and in some cases, a general outline of what progress we believe must be made in the coming year.

Perhaps the main issue concerning Penn State last year did not occur at University Park, but in Harrisburg. For there the University's budget request and Penn State's entire position as a university were debated. We strongly supported the University in its request for increased state funds which was eventually drastically cut by Governor Lawrence and the state legislature. We also urged that Penn State be officially designated as THE state university of Pennsylvania. While at the end of the year we could safely say there was a general verbal agreement among the state's political leaders that Penn State was so designated, we urge that this verbal agreement be made formal through an act of the legislature.

Students' rights were increased greatly last year, due chiefly to the actions of the University Senate. In an action last January, the Senate moved to eliminate discrimination in campus organizations.

This fall, the Senate voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees that ROTC be made voluntary. A third Senate action was less dramatic but just as important for it set up a standard discipline code and made the discipline committee a distinct and separate court of appeals for students.

We vigorously approved the changes in each of these three areas. We believe they have and will greatly improve the status of students on this campus and better prepare them for life after graduation. We urge that in the years to come the discrimination decision be accepted with grace and embraced by all students. We urge the Board of Trustees to accept ROTC on a voluntary basis. We view the discipline progress as only the beginning of the democratizing of this University's discipline system.

In contrast to the beneficial steps taken by the University Senate was the unfortunate decision by the Administrative Committee on Student Organizations which banned Froth magazine and in doing so eliminated a vital channel for student expression. We hope that this year the committee will show some faith in student intentions and approve the new Froth charter which is before it at this time.

Student government began 1962 with the initiation of its new constitution. In its final form the document had our full support and we maintain that it gives USG the necessary broad base for participation in the wide scope of student activity.

Student government held three elections in the past year—one with and two without political parties. The Daily Collegian has continually stressed its opinion that political parties, used to the best advantage, provide for the most active, interested and informed student government. We renew our stand on this matter and will continue to support strongly the use of the party system on this campus.

The area of town housing had many ups and downs during 1962. The State College Chamber of Commerce set up its own housing list, independent of student government's list, on which landlords who discriminate against certain races, religions or creeds, can be listed. This undercut USG's housing list, which was revamped to improve its service to students and landlords.

We opposed the type of list maintained by the Chamber of Commerce and hailed the improved service of student government's list. We continue to hold these beliefs.

Also, the borough of State College established a housing code which sets minimum standards for downtown rooms. We felt this code was a step in the right direction, but we await enforcement before we will comment on its effectiveness.

During 1962 The Daily Collegian also initiated a "Lion's Roar" editorial column to pay tribute to those individuals or groups who perform outstanding service to the University.

Last year, "Roars" were given for Dr. Monroe Newman, who led the fight in the Senate for the adoption of the anti-discrimination bill; to Albert Diem, former vice president for business, who set an admirable example for everyone when he resigned rather than give up his principles; for James C. Coogan, former director of public information who gave his life to promoting Penn State; for the University Senate, for approving voluntary ROTC; and for the 1962 football team for its outstanding record this fall.

With the beginning of 1963, we renew our resolution to publish a newspaper which will accurately present the news and one which will, to the best of "our" abilities, interpret the news: For A Better Penn State.

qui sait?

An Un-American Idea

by scrooge orton

Now that it's all over but the thank-you notes and disposal of the Christmas tree (which is good for a discount on appliances at one Harrisburg store), it's time for a post-Christmas analysis.

Christmas has its nice aspects—carolers in the snow, Santa Claus, Christmas dinner and a religious story which should make a war-worried world pause to consider for a few moments.

Christmas is good for the economy. Department store sales go up, unemployment decreases, newspaper advertising revenue is greater—if newspapers are publishing. It is a merry season for unions since a strike before

Christmas usually brings fast results.

Children like Christmas, since they like bright lights and packages to open.

But some aspects of Christmas reach the height of the ridiculous. Have you ever shopped for the person who has everything? The whole idea is silly. If he has everything already, why buy him anything else?

However, no one ever suggests that you don't buy

him anything. It's just not kosher. The Wall Street Journal recommends that he be given a small metal box with eight flashing red lights to place on his desk. What does it do? Nothing except sit there and flash red lights. After one year it will be worn out, and there's no way to repair it. Fits in nicely with planned obsolescence.

It's nice to have luxury items, but must manufacturers tax their brains to invent electric ice crushers and jeweled corkscrews? It's not that my mother isn't happy with the gift hand holding a magnifying glass which she received for Christmas. It looks rather nice sitting on the desk where it will undoubtedly remain all year, untouched. Still it would seem that the giver could have used the money more than mother can use the magnifying glass.

Consider the problem of buying a gift for a man who owns all the clothing he can use. If he doesn't smoke or drink, you can eliminate the sterling silver jiggers and the 5-pound ash trays, and settle for an electric toothbrush or an alligator wallet (of which he probably has five already).

I propose a month-long gifting period so that all useless gifts received could be rewrapped and given to other friends.

Better than that let's limit Christmas giving to children under 12 who never get anything they can't use in some way. Just call me Scrooge.



MISS ORTON

kaleidoscope

Life's A Game

by kay mills

Life is a game of Twenty Questions, or so it seems at this point. Every year people have new queries to pop out of their grab bags of goodies.

Theoretically, these are ideal conversation openers and no doubt a majority of the askers are sincerely interested in your answer. But by the 99th time you hear a question, you begin to wonder.

We can look back through our lives and remember some of the pet phrases. There's really never been any let-up as the first one entered the world when we did: "Boy or girl?"

Then there's the poor tot who is continually bombarded with "How old are you?" The kid can't possibly be more than 3 and you know it.

Christmas holds wonder for interrogators as well as children. The latter probably list what Santa brought them so many times that they'd tire of the man in the red suit if he weren't so generous.

Parents are rich sources of strictly rhetorical questions such as "Will you keep quiet?" or

"Where did you get that?"

Their friends always want to know if junior likes school (he inevitably doesn't and doesn't care who knows it) or what he wants to be when he grows up.

The long lost relatives want to know how much you've grown since they last saw you, but you can't remember because you don't have the remotest notion when that was.

School proves a common point of contact, so we may have heard: "Is high school really tougher than junior high?" "What's your favorite subject?" or "Whatcha doin' Saturday night?"

Questions grow up with their objects so we find: "Have you applied to college yet?" "Where are you going to school?" and "Where are you working this summer?"

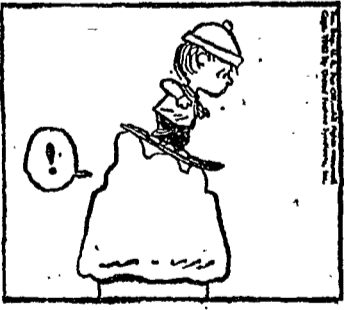
In terms of sheer repetition, however, we college students have our elders and kid brothers beat. What about "Do you like Penn State?" "Where're you from?" "What's your major?" or the inevitable "Do you know . . . ?" game?

As a senior, I almost decided to prepare a brief statement of my post-graduation plans for distribution to my questioners during the term vacation. Blank paper looks so forlorn, though.

The last of the Twenty Questions concerns that most nebulous future. We will undoubtedly face less frivolous problems; in short, the crucial questions undoubtedly lie ahead. My parting probe is: Are we ready?



MISS MILLS



LETTER POLICY

Letters to the editor must carry the full name of the author and identification of the author will be verified before any letter is published. In most cases, letters over 400 words will not be published. The Daily Collegian reserves the right to edit any letter if it is deemed necessary. The decision to publish or reject a letter lies solely with the editor; letters containing obvious misstatements or lacking in good taste or fair play will be rejected.

Letters

Soph Questions Term Values, Vacations

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to know exactly what values the term system has. It seems to me that we are trying to cram a semester's work into a ten-week period. The extra 25 minutes added to each class period seem to be a hindrance rather than an aid.

Professors think they have all the time in the world and waste half the period with jokes and other deviations. Students are bored and restless after an hour of note-taking—but there are still 15 more minutes.

Courses still have the same amount of outside readings and library research, not to mention the regular textbook. Study is more concentrated and thus constant cramming is in effect. This may be good for an "A" on a bluebook, but how much knowledge is retained after a week, a month or a year?

We don't pick up any extra credits this way. In fact, we get nothing out of it except two extra weeks of Christmas and no Thanksgiving or Easter vacation.

Surely there must be some better way to run this university than under the term system.

—Mary I. Sullivan '68

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