

Student-Trustee Forum—A First Step

Gov. William W. Scranton last spring suggested that the University's Board of Trustees meet once or twice a year with the student body to discuss problems related to the management of the University.

At that time, the governor said he had discussed the matter with President Eric A. Walker and intended to explore the situation further.

The board will open its regular winter meeting in Harrisburg on Friday, and it is apparent that thus far no action has been taken—either by the board or by Scranton—on his proposal.

The Daily Collegian has consistently maintained that the only truly responsible way for the board to meet its obligations to the people of the state, including the students, is to hold open meetings.

We have stated repeatedly that Penn State is, in reality, THE state university and should be governed by the open meeting laws for public institutions.

The board, however, has used a legal technicality giving the University private corporation status to continue its closed meeting policy. The board's insistence on this irresponsible policy smacks of a "public be damned" philosophy.

All efforts to dissuade the board from pursuing its present policy have failed. While a few board

members have in the past advocated open meetings, the board has given no indication that it would consider such a policy. Scranton has gone on record as opposing open meetings, which he feels would result in a "holocaust."

While we feel strongly that open meetings are not only desirable but needed, we feel it is even more important that the student body have some avenue of communication with the board.

Most students, we would guess probably do not know who the trustees are, nor even how many there are. News of what action they take is released only when it pleases them to do so.

Scranton's proposal thus is, if not the most desirable, at least an improvement over the present policy, where students are completely ignorant of the University's top policy-making group.

An open forum such as he suggests would give the student body an opportunity to discover who the trustees are, to exchange ideas and to air legitimate complaints.

It would also give the trustees an opportunity to establish closer contact with the students, who are usually most affected by their decisions.

The board should consider the forum proposal this weekend and should take steps to implement it. It is not the best solution. But then nothing could be worse than the present situation.

analysis

Academic Anarchy

by steve cimbalà

Two more years of high school?

That's what may face your younger brothers and sisters, and perhaps your children.

A recent editorial in the Harrisburg Patriot synthesizes some ideas on this controversial subject, a topic of much debate in educational circles.



It all started when the Educational Policies Commission, a group of 29 educators sponsored by CMBALA, the National Education Assn. and the American Assn. of School Administrators, recommended in a recently published article that "the 13th and 14th years of education in public colleges be free of cost to the student, because it is in the interest of the nation that the abilities of each person be developed through education up to this level."

The commission recommended not only that the added schooling be free but also that, on the community college level, admission be non-selective.

Pennsylvania should take care before climbing on the "education for everybody" bandwagon implied in part of these proposals.

I would certainly not contest the major premise of those who support the plan as the Patriot states it:

"A society, if it is to keep advancing, must continually upgrade the educational level and the skills of its work force. Since the war, it has become more and more apparent that a high school diploma no longer will suffice as a guarantee of a fairly good job. . . the nation must expand educational opportunities."

It is true that every intellectually-qualified student, rich or poor, should go to college. It is also true that many intellectually qualified students who deserve to attend college find schools' doors closed to them because they cannot dig up the requisite funds.

But sending everybody who merits higher education to college is one thing—and sending everybody to college is another.

Because a college education in America is so readily accessible to so many, too many American parents and educators have come to think in terms of "college or nothing" for their offspring.

If the proposal to make admission to community colleges free and non-selective is carried through, a thundering horde of parchment-seekers will cram these institutions' doors.

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 good taste or fair play will be rejected.

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classrooms—many of them, unconcerned with education, merely occupying seats to avoid Uncle Sam or a legitimate occupation.

In addition, many misguided students, lured by the bezeliments of a sheepskin, will jump into the degree derby and abandon plans for other careers, where their true interests and abilities lie.

It seems unrealistic to waste taxpayers' greenbacks in vain attempts to provide a college education for the thousands who don't really want it in order to catch those who do deserve it but cannot pay the toll.

Nonetheless, those in the latter category should certainly be assisted.

So it seems that while admission to these community colleges should be free, it should not be non-selective academically—such a carte blanche for the unqualified could backfire drastically.

If colleges are forced to admit countless students who are academically unqualified, (I don't believe that a high school diploma consisting of any hodgepodge of courses automatically qualifies one for further education) they will theoretically be forced to expand accordingly.

Eventually they'll reach the point of diminishing returns as far as this expansion goes—the trustees and taxpayers will tire of shelling out mil-

lions to educate the undeserving.

Then, these institutions will be forced to concoct ridiculously-tough weed-ing-out standards to separate the wheat from the chaff (yes, I know that's a cliché, freshman English virtuosos). In the process, some poor souls who could have made the grade under normal weeding-out standards will be washed out because too many were admitted in the first place.

Much more sensible is the plan Pennsylvania began work on this year—a community college system in which students attending such two-year schools would pay a nominal charge of about \$200 while meeting some not-too-draconic academic admission standards.

For the indigent but qualified, the \$200 tab could be dropped.

At the same time, federal and privately-endowed aid to education, especially in the form of scholarships and loans, should be stepped up.

A combination of the latter two moves, while retaining some academic selectivity, might lower the financial barrier, between high school and college. It might help more academically-deserving students get into college without opening a Pandora's box of ivy-league loiterers.

One should not ventilate a house by blowing off the roof.

out of the fog

The Un-Blackface Strut

by tony foglio

The man on the Manhattan Limited the other day was not in the best of moods.

Along with his com-plain-tee about the poor service rendered by Penn's bus found running diatribe against the Negro community in Philadelphia.

"Before you know it, that fella Moore and his N.A.A.C.P. chums'll be telling the Mayor he can't wear a black tie because it's 'discriminatory'!"

Being a Philadelphia native myself, I rather surmised that my seatmate was referring to the court injunction against the wearing of blackface in the (delayed) annual Mummers Parade Saturday.

I questioned the old gentleman a bit on why he felt that way.

"Ya see, son," he said, "I've been a mummer ever since my dad took me to see the first Mummers Parade on Broad Street back in 1900 and that farce they held yesterday just wasn't a Mummers Parade. How could it be, with no blackface minstrels in it?"

Every year for 63 years I've paraded in blackface. I've strutted from South Philadelphia to City Hall to North Philly and back to South Philly again. Sure it's more than seven miles each New Year's Day, but it's worth it to see the kids laugh and to feel that you're makin' people happy.

"But this year I just couldn't do it. How do you expect me to go up Broad Street without my blackface? Why, it'd be like going up

The Street stark naked! Blackface isn't 'discriminatory,' it's as much part of the costume as my baggy pants!"

After reflecting on this for a little while, I said, "But Cecil Moore (head of the Philadelphia NAACP) and his friends seem to think that it is discriminatory, that you're mocking Negroes when you put on the blackface and do your strut up Broad Street."

"Listen, boy," he said, "if that's true, then you're gonna have to outlaw Indian costumes and Oriental costumes and sailor costumes, too. If what the NAACP says is true, then those city judges should have stopped those two guys dressed up like Lady Bird Johnson and Mme. Nhu, because they all might take it into their heads to be offended at what those mummies were doing."

"No, boy, ya can't do it for one if you're not gonna do it for all. But did I hear Moore and the rest of them jerks 'protest' in support of Indians or Mrs. Johnson or that Mme. Nhu? I sure didn't!"

"Sir," I said, "I understand how you feel but don't you think the judges who banned the blackface marchers from the parade were right? After all, those CORE fellows said there'd be a race riot if blackface minstrels showed up in the Negro section of town."

"Maybe they did prevent a riot—and Lord knows nobody wanted one—but those judges were just as confused as the Negroes themselves. Ya see, boy, the Negroes got themselves all mixed up over real,

true discrimination, which they've got a right to protest about, and a symbol, which is all blackface is. It's not meant to harm anybody, it's just part of the parade intended to let people enjoy themselves. "And how could they enjoy themselves when they were afraid? Why, do you realize that 3,000 policemen were stationed along the parade route, just in case something did happen?"

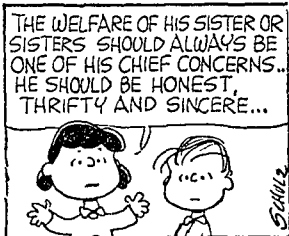
"And another thing: only 300,000 people lined Broad Street yesterday when a parade ain't considered a success unless there's near a million people and that's in all kinds of weather, too."

"Was anybody happy with the injunction? The mummies sure weren't. Why, a lot of the string bands didn't even play or strut when they were going through the Negro sections. Some of them just played a tattoo on the drums, just like in a funeral march."

"One group of clowns even pulled an N.A.A.C.P. trick, staging a sit-down strike right in the middle of Broad Street."

"Now you tell me, son, have you ever heard of anything like that before in a Mummers Day Parade? That's right, you haven't. But you mark my words, if those Negroes don't wise up and begin realizing that they're not the only ones who're entitled to rights, then the Mummers Parade has had it—just like I've had it."

"New Year's Day just won't be the same without the Negro mummies. And it's not the same now without blackface minstrels."



TODAY ON CAMPUS

Engineering Seminar
Dr. V. Lensky, professor of elasticity and plasticity at the University of Moscow who is visiting the University's engineering mechanics department will lecture on "Developments in Plasticity" at the Engineering Mechanics Seminar, 4 p.m., 210 Hammond.

UBA Opens
The Used Book Agency, ground floor, Hetzel Union Building, opens at 1 p.m. to sell books today through Tuesday.

IFC Rush Meeting
The Interfraternity Council will hold a rush orientation meeting for all male students second term and above at 7:30 in Schwab.

Other Events
Episcopal Holy Communion, 9 p.m., Helen Eakin Eisenhower chapel.
Episcopal Student Council, 7 p.m., Eisenhower chapel small lounge.

Rain Seen Likely For This Evening

Partly sunny skies and seasonable temperatures are expected this morning and early this afternoon, but increasing and thickening clouds will lead to overcast conditions this evening. Today's high will be near 40.

It should be cold and damp with rain tonight and most of tomorrow. The rain may be heavy at times. Tonight's low will be about 35 and a high of 42 is seen for tomorrow.

Snow flurries and colder weather are predicted for late tomorrow and tomorrow night. Friday should be partly cloudy and colder.

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Classes To Begin at Graduate Center

The infant King of Prussia Graduate Center opens its doors on a limited basis for the first time tomorrow night.

A. Witt Hutchison, center director, has set classes for Monday and Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. Six courses are scheduled to be taught during the winter term, which will end March 18 for those enrolled at the center.

Establishment of the center, the University's first, was announced last term. The move was undertaken to meet the educational needs of scientists and engineers in the southeast-

ern Pennsylvania area near Philadelphia.

The program offered at the center will lead to the Master of Engineering degree, with an engineering science major.

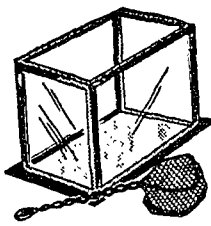
The center is located at the intersection of Rt. 23 and Henderson Rd., King of Prussia, in a building formerly occupied by the Upper Merion Twp. Junior High School. Upper Merion school directors leased the building to the University.

Lutheran Vespers Tonight

Eisenhower Chapel

6:30 p.m.

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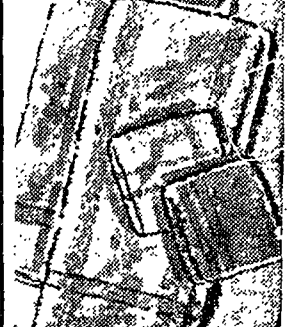
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