

High Hopes at Manila

The hopes of the world go with the delegates to the Manila peace conference, which begins Monday. But it is likely that little will come out of the conference to reinforce these hopes. The series of meetings has the potential to be one of the most ineffectual high-level peace conferences in history.

This is not to deny the good intentions of the representatives of the seven governments involved. And this is not to write off the conference as futile; indeed, at this point, any efforts, any international discussions, any search for answers, is most welcome.

But consider what awaits the delegates of the seven nations in their homelands.

In the United States, the Vietnam sore is festering. It is less popular than ever and is certainly more lacking in public support than any other war in our history. Unfortunately, however, there are two commonly conceived ways of ending the thing: the vast oversimplification of overt withdrawal, and the equally oversimplified escalation of the war. And, more dismaying, proponents of the latter course far outweigh those of the former.

It is election time and many candidates have all but abandoned local issues to run on Vietnam. Those who oppose our present policy and would like to see us get out as quickly and effectively as possible will almost certainly be voted down. Those who support the gradual escalation of the Johnson administration (and a few retired air force generals who are running on platforms of all out attack in Vietnam) will no doubt win.

This will no doubt buoy our President, who has conveniently absented himself from the last minute acrobatics of the campaign. And it will not bring us any closer to peace.

Consider some of the other participants in the Manila conference.

South Vietnam's representatives almost didn't make it to the meetings at all, since a good portion of Premier Ky's government, with a remarkable sense of timing, saw fit to resign a few days ago. Some Johnsonian arm-twisting quickly got the dissident

generals back in line and the crisis has been patched up, at least until after the conference. After all, Ky must have told them, we have to look good for The Leader.

Australia is busying itself for an election, too, and its government, which has reluctantly supported the war effort, is under concentrated and effective attack for this. The anti-war faction in Australia has to be much larger—proportionately—than that in the United States. And then yesterday they threw paint at the President's limousine.

Thailand is commonly regarded as the next Vietnam and is enjoying rich profits from U.S. military presence there. It is a convenient springboard for Vietnam bombing, although our government in effect denies that it knows anything about Thailand.

And the Philippines is no doubt the closest to President Johnson's heart, considering President Marcos' eloquent homage to the valiant United States during his visit here a few weeks ago. Although Marcos' eloquent homage to the valiant United States representative of Southeast Asia (read: representative of the thoughts of all the citizens of that area), said just what President Johnson wanted to hear, he does appear seriously interested in achieving peace in Vietnam.

So this much-touted conference should at least be interesting. But the chances of producing a concrete, workable and immediate solution to the Vietnam bloodshed are remote.

We could be wrong about this. And in this case, we sincerely hope we are.

BERRY'S WORLD



"It's going to be another one of those days! The button on the back of the collar is broken."

Letters to the Editor

Clarification from SDS

TO THE EDITOR: Yesterday's Collegian editorial was titled "Time for Action." It certainly is.

But there will be no action if the editorial's suggestions are followed. We sense from the tone of the editorial that SDS's rationale and purposes have been misinterpreted. We wish to clarify our position.

One basic assumption of the editorial was: The Administration has the right to control student lives in the classroom. We reject this assumption. The Administration has ASSUMED the power to control students, but this is no justification. Students alone should legislate, adjudicate and decide student policy. Regulation of private lives of students is no proper function of the University Administration.

USG CANNOT effectively represent students because it is structured as an integral part of the Administration. As the editorial remarked, USG is NOT a government. It is a lobby for students, and a hopelessly ineffective one at that. THERE IS NO ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR TRUE DEMOCRACY.

Another basic assumption of the editorial was: we should work within the system. This has given us only delays, broken promises and watered-down compromises. Why should anyone waste his time trying again?

Is this negative? Is this the folly of Quixote? If anything, it is a realistic view of the situation at Penn State. Moreover, what we advocate is a positive rather than a destructive solution: students must organize THEMSELVES ON THEIR OWN TERMS AND AROUND ISSUES THEY THINK ARE IMPORTANT.

What has been labeled negative is our attempt to show students exactly what USG is, exactly what USG does and exactly what it will not and cannot do.

USG has no effective base of student support. As the recent USG elections clearly indicate, the great majority of students recognize the futility of a vote for an ineffective, powerless group of so-called "student leaders" who must pander to the Administration.

We know working within the structure of the University yields only wasted effort.

We believe students should decide their own lives. Let the people decide.

Students for a Democratic Society
Political Evaluation and Action
Committee

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'Silly Gala Affair'

TO THE EDITOR: The USG elections have once again come and gone with all the significance of a flea breaking wind, and with about as much excitement. In my own area, Pollock, a fever pitch was reached as two blah candidates ran for two seats.

The vast majority of students showed their true feelings by boycotting the elections as SDS had suggested; not because we suggested it, but because there was really nothing offered to them in the whole silly gala affair. Even if Abe Lincoln were running for office it wouldn't do much good to vote for him: what power would he have in USG? Kalich comes up with some good ideas in a letter. Wowie Zowie! USG is really going to pass that legislation!

Except that it isn't USG running the show, it's Mama University—and Mama University is the one USG has to go begging to.

USG is a bootlicking farce, and SDS has an important message for that "apathetic" majority who tacitly agree with us: it is time for students to decide what rules they live under: not the administration, not the faculty, but the students themselves. SDS is coming out with a well-researched group of White Papers which will document the whole anti-democratic mess here, and offer plans of action. The first one: "The Powerful, The Powerless, The Controlled: The Administration-USG Coalition," will be distributed on the Mall next week. Read it—if you want to get angry.

So, to the USG member who decries our apathy: It ain't apathy, buddy, you just haven't got a single thing to excite us. What do you suppose would happen if we were given a chance to vote on whether or not girls can visit boys' dorms? (Something that schools much better than Penn State have had for years). Or if girls were given the chance to make dorm residence voluntary? You'd be crushed by the "apathy" around the ballot box.

But we're organizing, and you may even begin to notice us in a short while. Every student has many things

he doesn't like about Penn State—from the cost of medicine and football tickets to dorm regulations—but he doesn't know what to do about it and so, relapses into "apathy." But somebody's going to start coming out with some very explicit plans of action for students who want to live in a grown-up world where real people make real decisions about things which really affect them. Laugh if you want to.

While you're giggling we'll be starting a democracy, not continuing a farce.

Max Molinaro, '69
Chairman
Students for a Democratic Society

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Another Penn Experience

TO THE EDITOR: After reading Ed Munn's article in the Collegian, I fell to reminiscing about my own lengthier experience in attempting to escape to another college world.

Last year I found myself rather steadily dating a young man from University of Pennsylvania. I was considerably enthralled with the idea of departing from the Penn State world of Weejuns, Villagers, and the perpetual flocks of blue shirts for the true atmosphere of "studious" students, deep conversations over a jovial beer, and a world less devoted to my proud little pin. I was overjoyed to think that I could sit and engage in a different sort of fun and at last put all my English major's learning firmly in discussion of the world outside other than the "who's-dating-whom," "Let's go upstairs and dance," or "Let's go downstairs and drink" informal talks of the fraternity party world.

Thus, for two terms I became a steady weekender at Penn, which I thought would serve as a panacea for my boredom with trivia. Slowly, my dream was shattered when I came to the realization that at Penn Weejuns had been exchanged for Etienne Aigner, Villagers for similar but costlier models, and the blue shirt was in everlasting glory. Even though the Skellar was now Smokey Joe's, it was the same plenum with only slight differences. Our conversations were carefully elevated to "status-" discussions of Op art, e. e. cummings, and Samuel Beckett.

The Young Republican was superseded by the anarchist, but curiously enough, everyone sounded alike. Moreover, the WASP group had its greatest honors in Penn's Greek world. At last, the two groups of public school graduates and prepies appeared to form a unique merger in slang, and though I no longer heard "Do you believe...," I now heard "What a hairy situation," or "Now for some very humor." And so, I hadn't escaped at all.

Though I couldn't be sure if there is a different world anywhere, just as I can't say if there is a Santa Claus, there is a meager chance there is—somewhere.

Barbara A. Ruto, '67

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The Boycott Strikes

See related story, Page 4

TO THE EDITOR: State College chain supermarkets apparently are unable to take a cue from changes occurring in other cities. Boycotts in Detroit, Seattle and part of Colorado have caused amazing reductions in food prices, while supermarkets in Chicago dropped prices without any pressure. Here, a reverse trend is in effect.

Inevitably, the insular character of State College plays a large role in the setting of prices. With no sizeable nearby towns to provide competition, stores have no impetus to reduce prices.

This is a concern of many students—apartment dwellers, graduate students' wives, etc.—as well as permanent town people. Hence a letter of similar substance has been sent to the Centre Daily Times.

It would do no harm to follow the example set for us in other parts of the nation. I suggest that starting next Monday, the 24th, the food buyers of this town should refrain from patronizing the chain food stores and that they use the independent markets instead. If two or three days of boycott produce no result, perhaps this would indicate that our merchants require greater stimulation of a longer boycott.

Alice Meyer
Part-time student

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ATTENTION ALL 1ST TERM MEN

Tonight will be Open-House For You at
All Houses (except Acacia)

Tomorrow the Following Fraternities Will Be Open
from 2-5 P.M.

- Acacia
- Alpha Chi Sigma
- Alpha Epsilon Pi
- Alpha Gamma Rho
- Alpha Kappa Lambda
- Alpha Phi Alpha
- Alpha Phi Delta

- Alpha Tau Omega
- Beta Sigma Rho
- Chi Phi
- Delta Phi
- Delta Theta Sigma
- Delta Upsilon
- Kappa Alpha Psi
- Lambda Chi Alpha

- Omega Psi Phi
- Phi Delta Theta
- Phi Epsilon Pi
- Phi Kappa Tau
- Pi Kappa Alpha
- Sigma Phi Epsilon
- Zeta Beta Tau