

YAF and the Draft

"We urge Pennsylvania State University students to join us in urging Congress to begin preparations for the eventual abolition of the draft in America."

This is the statement of a spokesman of the Young Americans for Freedom. YAF is soliciting signatures in the HUB today and tomorrow for an "abolish-the-draft" petition to be sent to Sen. Joseph S. Clark of Pennsylvania, with copies sent to Sens. Mark Hatfield of Oregon and Edward Brooks of Massachusetts.

The text of the petition reads: "We the undersigned students of The Pennsylvania State University respectfully oppose both the abolition of academic military draft deferments and the establishment of a National Draft Lottery."

"We believe that the draft should be made more and not less personal. We further believe that any new draft law should take the first step toward an eventual totally voluntary military service."

YAF enumerates five steps toward the eventual realization of its goal, including increased benefits for servicemen, more opportunities for women in the military and maintenance of an emergency draft system which would quickly draft men in the event of an all-out sustained war.

Although we may not necessarily agree with the entire program, we endorse YAF's basic premise—that the draft is bad and that it must be abolished.

The draft is an infringement on the right of personal choice. As a YAF member put it: a voluntary system seems like the most patriotic and historical thing to do, but the unique thing about America is that it permits people to be unpatriotic if they wish to. "That is what America is all about—the right to be a fink. If that right were destroyed, then America wouldn't be worth fighting for, anyway."

As we have said many times in these columns, the draft is discriminatory along socio-economic class lines. Men who can afford to go to college are virtually exempt. Those who cannot afford college are not so fortunate.

Furthermore, the draft is not really necessary, military experts have been asserting with some frequency of late. Certainly inducements will have to be offered in order to recruit more volunteers. But it has been suggested that with the elimination of local draft boards and other bureaus in the bureaucratic maze, more money will be available for higher salaries and more benefits for soldiers.

No one knows just how great these increases will have to be, but as unemployment rates continue to rise, as the structure of the economy indicates it will, this may in itself be enough to guarantee more volunteers.

We therefore commend YAF on its stand against the draft and urge all students to sign the petition at the YAF table on the ground floor of the HUB.

BERRY'S WORLD



© 1967 by NEA, Inc. "Why don't you forget about what they'll name the child and come to bed?"



Mike Urban AT The Scene

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It is a rare occasion when a Collegian Photography Editor writes a column of opinion. Because of Mr. Urban's title, and because his facility with words equals his facility with the camera, we present his observations.)

HUB . . . ground floor . . . 10 a.m. . . . A man sets up a chair and then walks with a second man by the elevator. He says, "I see you read your Collegian today." "Yea," the other man replies, "I wanted to laugh at THEM." "Who . . . the recruiters or the other people? . . . If I'm in the army, who do you think I'm going to laugh at?"

10:45 a.m. . . . There are 11 SDS pickets standing on the rear wall by the BX. Facing them are five recruiters—three men and two women. Onlookers file past. A sorority girl remarks, "What is this?" Another notes of a picket, "She's just there for appearances!" Above the sound of feet, homework is discussed. Some file past and say hi to their friends in the picket line. One picket says to another, "Do you have a class?"

"Let's throw beer bottles at them . . . I've never seen any of them on campus before—they must come out of their holes!"

10:55 a.m. . . . A recruiter quietly stamps forms as four pickets stand behind him.

11 a.m. . . . The area is packed and a circus atmosphere is in the air. People continue to pass, but more slowly. "The stupid jerks . . . I wish I had a water-bag." A coed coos, "I don't believe this—it's too exciting!" At the recruiting table, some ask intelligent questions about the service. A passing teacher notes, "I think it's good; I like to see freedom of speech exercised."

In a circle of 50-60 people, a dialogue begins. Physics book in hand, the picket argues his point with the onlooker. They go in circles . . . "You missed the point . . . history doesn't support you . . . it's sheer totalitarian banditry." Yet, in 15 minutes of dialogue major questions emerge and surface name-calling stops. Just what is a representative government?

11:12 a.m. . . . the smirking girls go by.
11:35 a.m. . . . The discussions continue, but the flow of people has stopped.

Behind a group of pickets and students discussing the Vietnam war a smiling boy stands. He holds a sign high above them . . . it says, ENLIST NOW . . . HELP STAMP OUT SDS. This student stands silent.

The muttering, smirking, smart-talking masses that passed through the HUB between second and third periods yesterday were silent. They laugh, make insane comments and feel secure as part of the status quo. They cry, "Trouble is, they (SDS) get too much publicity."

Why is there silence? Is there no one to defend the present way of American life, love . . . and . . . war. This is the challenge . . . to discuss and engage in intelligent dialogue. Those who pass in silence only admit to their ignorance. A person who cannot defend the way he lives does not deserve to live that way. SDS will talk and examine what they stand for . . . will we?

On WDFM-91.1

4-4:05 p.m. — WDFM News (continued)
4:05-6 p.m. — Music of the Masters (Hand)
6-6:05 p.m. — WDFM News
6:05-7 p.m. — After Six (popular, easy-listening)
7-7:15 p.m. — Dateline News (comprehensive campus, national and international news, sports and weather)
7:15-7:45 p.m. — After Six

7:45-8 p.m. — Weekend Preview (Cincy Bloom with highlights on upcoming campus events)
8-10 p.m. — How About You (all request show with Mike Bartos)
10-10:05 p.m. — WDFM News
10:05-12 midnight — Symphonic Notebook

61 Years of Editorial Freedom

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LETTER POLICY

The Daily Collegian accepts letters to the editor regarding Collegian news coverage or editorial policy and campus or non-campus affairs. Letters must be typewritten, no more than two pages in length, and should be brought to the office of The Daily Collegian in person so that identification of the writer can be checked. If letters are received by mail, The Collegian will contact the signer for verification. The Daily Collegian reserves the right to select which letters will be published and to edit letters for style and content.

Letters To The Editor

Other Jewish Presidents

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to take issue with several points in Miss Devine's most recent column (April 22), even though I am a Jew and voted for Kleeblatt. She attributes Mr. Kleeblatt's loss primarily to anti-Semitism. Yet she fails to realize that our last two consecutive USG presidents were Jewish. In addition, Jon Fox with whom she credits having "pulled the entire New Party executive slate into office" is also of Jewish heritage.

Miss Devine also discredits Mr. Fox as a student leader. Yet the members of his class and other classes recognize him as one of the most dynamic student leaders on this campus. This was reflected at the polls.

She makes no hesitation to make known where her sympathies stand. By making her views known before the election, she would have done great service to Long and his supporters. Perhaps the students want a "sharp turn to the right" and a turn away from SDSism.

Michael Bartos, '69
(Editor's Note: According to reliable sources, only one of the past three presidents of USG was Jewish. One was Roman Catholic and the other Protestant.)

Kudos for Columnist

TO THE EDITOR: In the face of those self-righteous and perhaps ignorant persons who have responded with harsh criticism, I would like to offer my congratulations and support of Miss Laurie Devine (re: "Tribute to the Winner," April 22 Collegian).

As a former Collegian staff writer and editor, I have had the misfortune to watch USG's embryonic politicians in action for the past five years. I have seen them flock to the Collegian for publicity—especially during what is benevolently termed the "campaign"—and have witnessed countless instances similar to those related by Miss Devine. Disregard for ethics is traditional in USG campaigns; and allowing such practices to occur without comment has been a Collegian tradition. Now Miss Devine has simply performed her duty as a newspaperwoman, and she is censured roundly by those whose sensibilities have been offended by the truth.

There is a myth which festers at this University, particularly among USG personnel and administration officials, which theorizes that the student newspaper should present a favorable public image of all phases of this institution. This always arises after a USG election, when losers and winners alike superciliously beseech all to cast aside previous antagonisms and band together for a better something-or-other. And they expect Collegian to observe this proclamation of unity, even when few honestly believe it is valid.

A newspaper does have an obligation to its readers and to its community; but this doesn't mean it should ignore some sorry truths and lapse into unqualified support for all the University says and does. If the new dramatic personae of USG desired Collegian plaudits, they should have conducted an ethical campaign. They didn't. And Miss Devine, doing no more nor less than her job required, reported and interpreted these facts.

Actually, I thought she walked rather lightly. She could have related how Jon Fox, whose political career was conceived, born and reared on these pages, played musical-parties before graciously accepting the New Party nomination. She could have told the perverted truth about certain telephone calls made during the campaign. She could have told of the emotional immaturity displayed by certain candidates who phoned Collegian personnel with charges of bias and unfairness and "wrecking my campaign"—all because their opponents had beaten them to the punch and submitted for publication a list of incumbent student leaders who said they'd support the SP slate. She could have told how both parties exceeded their expense quotas for the campaign, and how election returns were held up more than an hour while a grievance committee pondered this two-tailed violation. And she could have backtracked to the start of the campaign, when New Party leaders refused to enter into an "ethical campaign" agreement proposed by Student Party.

And, critics, Miss Devine did not say Mr. Kleeblatt lost the election because of the anti-Semitic practices which came to light. She did make the valid implication that Mr. Long knew about some of these incidents and refused to take any action to stop them. The thirst for power (?) and recognition sometimes causes normally rational persons to act in strange ways.

One might say that all this is water over the proverbial dam; but it's better that the truth emerge after the fact than not at all. Congratulations, Miss Devine and Collegian, for doing your job—finally.

John C. Lott
Graduate Student

Anti-Semitism Not a Factor

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to refer to the article which appeared in the Collegian on Saturday called "Tribute to the Winner."

Miss Devine makes reference to the last USG campaign and results of its elections. I do not blame Miss Devine for defending Bob Kleeblatt. I think that this is of a personal concern; but when I read what she says about Jon Fox, in first instance, I was really disgusted, for Mr. Fox has been one of the hardest workers the student body at Penn State has had in the last two years. I will admit that he has gone far enough with the Jammies and the so-called "Spirit of '69," but to call him "vacillating and politi-

cally immature" is certainly unfair. I think that two years in office as president of his class has given him enough experience and clear concept of what the responsibility of his new position is. Miss Devine, the fact that you liked the other candidate better is not reason enough to call a person with those terms. Remember Miss Devine, we are all human beings, and we all have a human dignity.

Another issue which also struck me Miss Devine, was what you said about anti-Semitism. I really do not think that was part of Mr. Long's campaign. Many of my Jewish friends voted for him. I wonder now why you did not relate the violence on Campus that we have had lately with Mr. Long's campaign.

Maybe there were people who voted for Long because they did not like the fact that Mr. Kleeblatt was Jewish, but I do not think Mr. Long's political campaign has anything to do with this. I agree with you, the students involved should be condemned, but please, let's have an open mind.

You said you cannot be kind with the new officers: the elections are over now, Miss Devine; I think that the least we could do is try to help these new people out. We do not work for our personal prestige, we should try to work for the good of the student body in general.

When you say things in the way you say them in your article, you are lowering yourself to the same level of those people who painted the swastikas and called Mr. Kleeblatt in the way they did. Miss Devine, I sincerely hope you change your mind and instead of criticizing the new structure, let's help them out in carrying out this difficult transformation that the student body is expecting so anxiously.

Hugo Groening, '68

Wait for USG Accomplishments

TO THE EDITOR: It should be quite obvious to any intelligent reader that Miss Devine's article in the Saturday (April 22) issue refuted itself with surprising facility. Each of us has his own opinions about the qualifications of candidates in any election, and certainly it was for the student body to decide which candidate was best—not Miss Devine nor her group of friends.

If, as the article seems to imply, there was a tremendous smear campaign waged against Mr. Kleeblatt, the situation was unfortunate. I myself was not aware of any smear campaign of such magnitude. Nor do I believe that the majority of PSU students vote on the basis of winning smiles, race or religious bigotry.

If what Miss Devine says is true then indeed Mr. Kleeblatt should be praised; but to discount the qualifications of those elected on the basis of goings on on campus is certainly not open-minded. Wouldn't it be better to wait to see what USG accomplishes in the future before condemning now?

Miss Devine's article merely emphasized the fact that the actions, anger, vicious statements and rash generalizations of a candidate's supporters are in no way a true reflection of the character or qualifications of the candidate. The article demonstrated quite clearly the very type of attitude that the author condemns.

It seems to me that Miss Devine took it upon herself to decide in absolute terms which candidate was best; the voters obviously had other ideas and I support their right to decide.

If, on the contrary, the students should not have this right, perhaps we should do away with elections and allow Miss Devine or the administration decide who the best candidates are.

Leo Hartz, '69



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Today's action. Can you handle it?

If you work for The Daily Collegian, you're on the inside of every happening. If there's action, you'll hear about it at The Collegian. Ask anyone who's ever worked for The Collegian about the campaign to raise money for WDFM's new transmitter, or the effort to abolish USG, or talking to the FBI after the marijuana arrests, or attending University Senate meetings. Come and see if you can handle the action. The Collegian's candidate, school begins today at 7 p.m. in 118 Sackett. Undergraduates from all curricula are invited to attend.

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