

# Miscellaneous

It's customary for The Daily Collegian to offer words of welcome at the start of each new term. All right, welcome back. And, it's time to think of a few important things.

First of all, Gov. Shafer is about to sign a bill to release funds for Pennsylvania's state-supported universities.

After a long impasse on tax measures in Harrisburg, legislators charged into the state's financial problems by passing a six per cent sales tax and hiking taxes on alcoholic beverages to match the previously raised tax on cigarettes.

Financially, one of the most important measures, aid to Pennsylvania's three state supported universities, Penn State, Pitt and Temple, is ready after continuous pleas from President Walker that the University has been spending money for five months "based on a budget request submitted more than a year ago."

So, one crisis has been averted — that of a tuition hike. Meanwhile, the University owes large sums in interest payments on money borrowed to pay operating expenses for the last five months. There are a few faculty and staff positions vacant due to a ban on hiring during December.

In short, it's important to keep a close eye on Harrisburg in the future. If legislators were able to create as much of a problem for educational institutions in this state as they just have, it won't be easy to trust them in future matters involving education and the money to keep it going.

Meanwhile, back here at University Park, there remain leftovers from last term. The Town Independent Men's Council is still waging its battle against unsuitable downtown living conditions. Although TIM's work has had minor successes in correcting sundry bad situations, there's still much work

to be done. And, TIM needs help. If only the backing of students living off-campus to make its work worthwhile, if nothing else.

There are the usual academic goals and the usual social goals to strive for such as a pass-fail grading system for certain courses, improvements in campus facilities, etc.

There are extra-curricular projects worthy of interest such as the Model United Nations sessions set for Feb. 22-25, University Theatre productions, winter athletics.

We're still fighting in Vietnam. Senator Eugene McCarthy is making a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Both are things to give energy to — whether pro or con.

Winter term 1968 promises to be one of the coldest on record too. So, whatever energy we have left after fighting the climate may as well go towards something constructive.

Many projects were started last term. Let's keep the ball rolling into spring.

## A Resolution

President Walker addressed new students Wednesday night and repeated the idea he threw out to new students last term — the University must educate students to be "responsible citizens in a complex world."

It bears repeating. Last term the Collegian editorialized that the University's goal to educate students to be able to contribute to society and social issues as well as to keep the wheels of society going, was a long needed goal.

That thought bears repeating. We hope that the four months that have passed since Walker announced this new emphasis on learning have seen some progress. That includes progress on both sides — from students and from the University.

Is the University actively encouraging student awareness in different spheres? Are students really interested in being aware even though they are living in an area out of the mainstream of the world?

These are important considerations. When the four years are up, the University has an obligation to turn out students that will be an asset to society. Students, in turn, are responsible to society in their direct participation in various social problems.

The University already makes open many avenues to activities where students can apply what they've learned to what lies outside of campus.

Many students take advantage of the extra-curricular programs available. Unfortunately, not enough do. Of course, the participants always outnumber the onlookers and the non-involved. And, of course, there are always those that call for more involvement (like the Collegian).

But, what is most important is that the University can not do anything if only a handful of students are interested in what the University can do.

The Collegian urges involvement not only for the sake of being involved, but for the sake of setting a good habit for the future.

It's a new year and a new term. If resolutions are in order, getting involved is a good one.

## A Call For A New Law

A few months ago I wrote that serious consideration should be given to the revamping of laws which go ignored by a vast majority of the public. Abortion was the subject in that column; now it's the Pennsylvania law prohibiting the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors.

I'm proposing that the state lower the legal drinking age to 18. I don't think this is asking too much. And if common sense prevails (which falls surprisingly often when you think about how common is common sense) then this proposal is merely asking for self-honesty.

The obvious reason for the age reduction, I suggest, is the draft. Nobody with a pinch of sense can honestly utter in the same breath that at 18 one is old enough to be trusted with this or another nation's security yet not until three years later can we trust someone with a mug of beer.

One supposes it takes the height of maturity to commit man's most dramatic act, to kill. Perhaps our legislators reason that it requires more self-control to keep oneself from getting drunk than from remaining steadfast in combat.

The draft, however, is only a superficial and secondary argument for lowering the drinking age. My premise is that once a youth turns 18 he either already has the maturity to indulge intelligently or will soon reach it. Those who can't handle liquor at 18 probably will be prone to the same drunken spree at 21.

We permit our youth to drive the number one killer in this country at 16. How can we reconcile this privilege—I mean to drive, not to kill—with the drinking age? We have faith that our adolescents will drive safely, but we don't think these same people have the maturity to drink until they've grown up another five years. This is plainly hypocritical and absurd.

Many argue that if we did lower the drinking age, more deaths as a result would occur on the highway. The reasoning behind this is that those who are prone to drunken driving at 18 probably will mature by 21. This may be true in some instances.

However, I submit that the number who may mature during the three years is very small and that in fact by prolonging this common right we are simply increasing the desire and fascination to drink in many young adults. By the time they reach that gifted age, they've pent up such physical and psychological cravings for alcohol that they start drinking wildly.

On the contrary, if drinking were permitted at 18 these anxieties would be almost nonexistent. Furthermore, drinking would stand a far greater chance of beginning in the home when one is 18. And any educator, legislator or whoever will tell you that if you're going to drink, the best place to begin is in the home under your parents' guidance.

Beside all these honest arguments, there is the hard truth that once a person leaves high school alcohol is readily available to him. Anybody who wants a drink can get it.

A few years ago New York's Moreland Commission (on alcohol) realized that the state liquor control system had no demonstrable effect on the direct problems of alcohol or its rate of consumption.

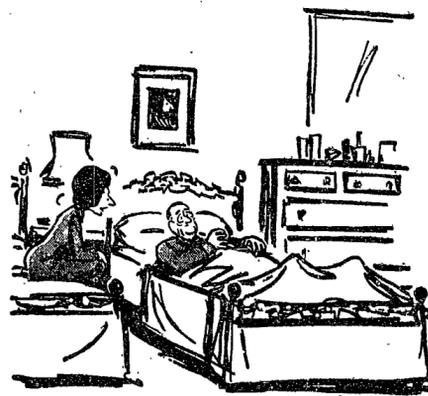
One doesn't have to be told that the liquor laws are unenforceable. Parents, ask your teenage children. Legislators, ask any young adult on the street. Go to universities and check apartments and fraternities. Go into our armed services and ask the minor if he's never had the opportunity to indulge. Visit the workman who's under 21 and ask him if he won't have a nip now and then.

Prohibition didn't work because nobody paid any attention to it. Few people who want to drink wait until they're 21. It's time the state realized that. It's time the state stopped being so foolishly and obviously hypocritical by permitting the Selective Service Act to stand beside the liquor laws.

It's time the state implemented the sound idea of drinking beginning in the home by writing a practical law. It's time the state stood up to its responsibility and looked honestly at the issues.

Something can be done about the present situation. Students should write to their parents requesting them to write to their legislators and asking for action.

Governments are sometimes funny in that they won't necessarily do what is required unless they have strong public support. So if you want to have one less thing to protest, stop being so hypocritical. If you're tired of this game and the hypocrisy involved then do something; write to your congressman and demand him to act honestly.



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# ATTENTION

## ALL FRATERNITY RUSHEES

(Second Term and Above)

The Following Fraternities Will Be Sponsoring Rush Functions This Weekend. These Functions Are Open To All Rushees of Second Term Standing or Above. If You Have Any Questions Concerning A Particular House Feel Free To Call Their Rush Chairman.

<b>Saturday, January 6,</b>	<b>Sunday, January 7,</b>
Alpha Sigma Phi	Alpha Chi Rho
Alpha Chi Rho	Alpha Gamma Rho
Beta Theta Pi	Alpha Sigma Phi
Beta Sigma Rho	Beta Sigma Rho
Delta Upsilon	Delta Sigma Phi
Delta Sigma Phi	Delta Chi
Lambda Chi Alpha	Lambda Chi Alpha
Omega Psi Phi	Omega Psi Phi
Phi Mu Delta	Phi Mu Delta
Phi Epsilon Pi	Phi Epsilon Pi
Phi Delta Theta	Phi Kappa Psi
Phi Kappa Psi	Pi Lambda Phi
Pi Kappa Phi	Pi Kappa Phi
Pi Lambda Phi	Pi Kappa Alpha
Pi Kappa Alpha	Sigma Phi Epsilon
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Sigma Alpha Mu
Sigma Chi	Tau Kappa Epsilon
Sigma Alpha Mu	Triangle
Sigma Phi Epsilon	Zeta Beta Tau
Tau Kappa Epsilon	
Triangle	
Zeta Beta Tau	

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