

What's The Story?

Strange circumstances surround the disclosure last week that six students were blinded by looking at the sun while under the influence of LSD.

According to the report, the incident happened last spring. Why and how was the story kept quiet so long? More importantly, why can't anyone get a definite confirmation of what school the students were attending?

Yesterday's report in The Philadelphia Inquirer claims Edinboro State College is the school. Dr. Chester T. McNeerney, president of the school, says no. "It is kind of unlikely," to use his own words. "As far as I know, we have never had a drug problem here. We haven't even had a case of marijuana."

Whether Edinboro, population 5,000 students, is that isolated from the world or whether President McNeerney's unfamiliarity with his campus (he's been president since 1966) is the cause of this naivete, is up for anyone's speculation.

What matters to the press is that information is being withheld. This leads to the more important consideration — what is the real story and what effect does it have on students, anywhere, who ex-

periment with drugs? How can we be sure that LSD is solely responsible in this case?

We can assume that the victims had taken LSD. But we can only wonder whether other accompanying circumstances prompted them to seek out their tragic places in the sun.

Was LSD the only thing involved? We'll never know, at least not for awhile.

A secondary consideration is the problem that the excess publicity given to the case, mainly because someone is trying to hush it up, might increase public apprehension about drug reform. While we don't advocate less strict laws for drugs like LSD (as the Collegian advocated a revision on laws concerning marijuana), we do advocate a more careful look at those mind-expanding drugs which can produce parallel experiences that cancel out any look into the soul for which the drug is taken.

A more careful look does not have to mean a negative look, but rather an unbiased study on a still confused subject. And, at the moment, we also suggest an investigation into the factors that resulted in this most recently disclosed tragedy that took the sight of six students.

More on Disruption: A Shallow Proposal

Dr. Ernest C. Pollard's proposal, made recently before the University Senate, that students who disrupt the operation of the University through demonstrations be suspended deserves more extensive comment.

It might be pointed out that most demonstrators who willingly disrupt do so with the knowledge that they are courting arrest or other punitive action, and they delight in the prospect. Many block the doorways of induction centers or throw chicken blood at Dean Rusk with the INTENTION of being arrested.

Many recklessly risk life and limb for the ultimate "glory" and concomitant martyrdom of arrest — and sometimes have to expend considerable energy to achieve their goal. During the Oct. 21 demonstration at the Pentagon, and at various other demonstrations across the country, the police were as determined not to arrest anybody as the demonstrators were determined to be arrested — and if possible bloodied in the process.

A dedicated demonstrator might have to be carried out of an induction center several times before the police will concede failure and pack him into the paddy wagon.

To suspend such people in order to set them up as examples to other dissidents is about as productive as sitting in Pentagon corridors to stop a war being waged 6000 miles away. Such shallow treatment of the problem only succeeds in hiding it behind an iron curtain of misunderstanding.

A proposal to study in depth the causes of disruption would be much more useful. (Dr. Pollard indirectly approached this solution by suggesting that the University Senate sponsor debates on national affairs similar to those conducted at Yale and Oxford.)

The disruptive element does not wholly consist of drug-imbibing, long-haired, dirty-faced youths determined to drop out of a world they consider hypocritical and militaristic. Responsible, formerly law-abiding citizens have also decided that the only way to communicate with their government is to break its laws.

A respected clergyman poured blood on the files of an induction center a few months ago. More men (952) were convicted of violating the draft laws in 1967 than in any year since World War II. A large number of professors and newspaper editors recently declared that they would refuse to pay the portion of their income taxes slated for use in the Vietnam war.

Esteemed authors like Norman Mailer have deliberately and openly broken the law in protest against the war. Literary critic Dwight MacDonal, author Paul Goodman and pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock (no self-respecting mother would question HIS integrity) are all under indictment for "conspiring to counsel young men to violate the draft laws."

The President of the United States and his Cabinet members cannot walk the streets of their own country without inspiring violent demonstrations.

There is obviously something deeply wrong with a political system (and/or its decision makers) which provokes mass and unlawful dissent. It is the challenge of our era to seek out and eliminate the roots of this mass unrest. We will not find them by vainly searching for conspiracies — or by veiling the problem with a series of mass suspensions.

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.



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"Here's to the new tourism restrictions—they'll cut down on the number of cheapskates seeing the world on a shoestring!"

Letters to the Editor

Dewar's Last Words

TO THE EDITOR: I am aware that my letter was an emotional one. Certain arguments which utilize the science of logic present the opportunity for a logical refutation; however, demonstrations motivated by emotions can only produce emotional reactions from observers. This particular demonstration (Nov. 22) was disgusting enough to elicit such an emotional response.

I would certainly not have any criticism of a genuine memorial service held in a chapel by a group of citizens in observance of our war dead. The gathering on the Mall was not such a service. It was a thinly veiled anti-war demonstration which used our fallen veterans as justification for its existence. This prostitution of our war dead in the guise of a religious ceremony is the basis of my objection. The words "mourners," "needlessly sacrificed," and the black arm bands betrayed the real purpose of the event.

I thank Mr. Russell for shattering my illusions of the non-existence of veteran's groups opposing the war. Further enlightenment by Mr. Russell would be in order. Of the nearly one and one-half million veterans that have been rotated back from Vietnam, how many have joined the protest movement? What percentage of the total number of those who have returned have shown support for the opposition?

The verbose harangue sent in by graduates LiBernardo and Meyer, of course, was not of a high enough caliber to warrant a reply.

In reply to the remarks by Mr. Klopp, I neither supported nor objected to the beer-throwing incident. I merely used it as an illustration of the feeling that many, indeed most, veterans have about the protest movement and the demonstrators. As for the appeal for more letters and fewer draft card and flag burnings, I concur completely.

President Johnson, Secretary Rusk, and Secretary McNamara have explained their strategy and given their justification for our position again and again via the White Paper, countless interviews, public statements, and press reports. What is the basis, then, of the contention that our government has not made its position clear? Are the demonstrators isolated from the news media?

Conversely, I do not understand the vague generalities about immorality and dishonorableness, or the unclear accusations of illegality that the protesters flaunt repeatedly as their reasons for protesting.

In conjunction with Mr. Klopp, I call for the opinions of the campus hawks, and in addition, an unambiguous statement from the opposition stating specifically what is being protested. Let us hope that Mr. Long's charge of apathy is unwarranted.

Robert J. Dewar, '68

He Won't Switch and Here's Why

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Mamone's letter referring to his change from "hawk" to "one who feels the war is accomplishing little and that negotiations should begin at once" deserves response.

Mr. Mamone seems now to belong to "the group". To join, read the following: The Two Vietnamese (B. Fall), Street without Joy (B. Fall), follow with Quotations From Chairman Mao-Tse Tung, Arrogance of Power (J. Fulbright) and finish with The Pocketbook of Baby and Childcare (Dr. Spock). Viola! Instant Academician!

The weaknesses in Mr. Mamone's argument are: (1) the assumption that the facts (yes, there are some) in the letter are necessary and sufficient for a fuller understanding of the situation in Southeast Asia; (2) the assumption that the inferences drawn from the facts are correct; (3) the assumption that the present administration is blindly ignoring such facts.

Even former President Eisenhower qualified his recommendations for an "end run" around the DMZ by saying, in effect, that only people who live with this problem every day are really qualified to make decisions.

Anyone concerned about this war wants to know the why's, but like most people, you and I cannot be aware of what facts we don't know.

The "meaningful dialogue" will take place this November in the voting booth.

Neil Sherman '68

WDFM Schedule

- 4:45 p.m. — WDFM News sports and weather)
- 4:05-6 p.m. — Music of the Masters with Kathy Bradley (J. S. Bach—'Lute Suites' #1 & #2; Moussogorsky—"Pictures at an Exhibition"; Balakirev—"Islamey")
- 6-6:05 p.m. — WDFM News
- 6:05-7 p.m. — After Six (Popular, easy-listening)
- 7-7:15 p.m. — Datalite News (Comprehensive campus, national and international news, sports, and weather)
- 7:15-7:45 p.m. — After six (Continued)
- 7:45-8 p.m. — Focus
- 8-10 p.m. — Two on the Aisle with Tom Kalin (Music from film and Broadway Theatre)
- 10-10:05 p.m. — WDFM News
- 10:05-12 midnight — Symphonic Notebook with Alice Paterson (Bach—4th "Lute Suite"; Bartok—"Quartet #2"; Schubert—"Symphony #9")
- 12-12:05 a.m. — WDFM News



Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

The Daily Collegian

62 Years of Editorial Freedom

Published Tuesday through Saturday during the Fall, Winter and Spring Terms and once weekly on Thursdays during June, July and August. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Second class postage paid at State College, Pa. 16801. Circulation, 12,500.

Mail Subscription Price: \$8.50 a year
Mailing Address — Box 467, State College, Pa. 16801
Editorial and Business Office — Basement of Sackett (North End) Phone — 845-2111
Business office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Member of The Associated Press

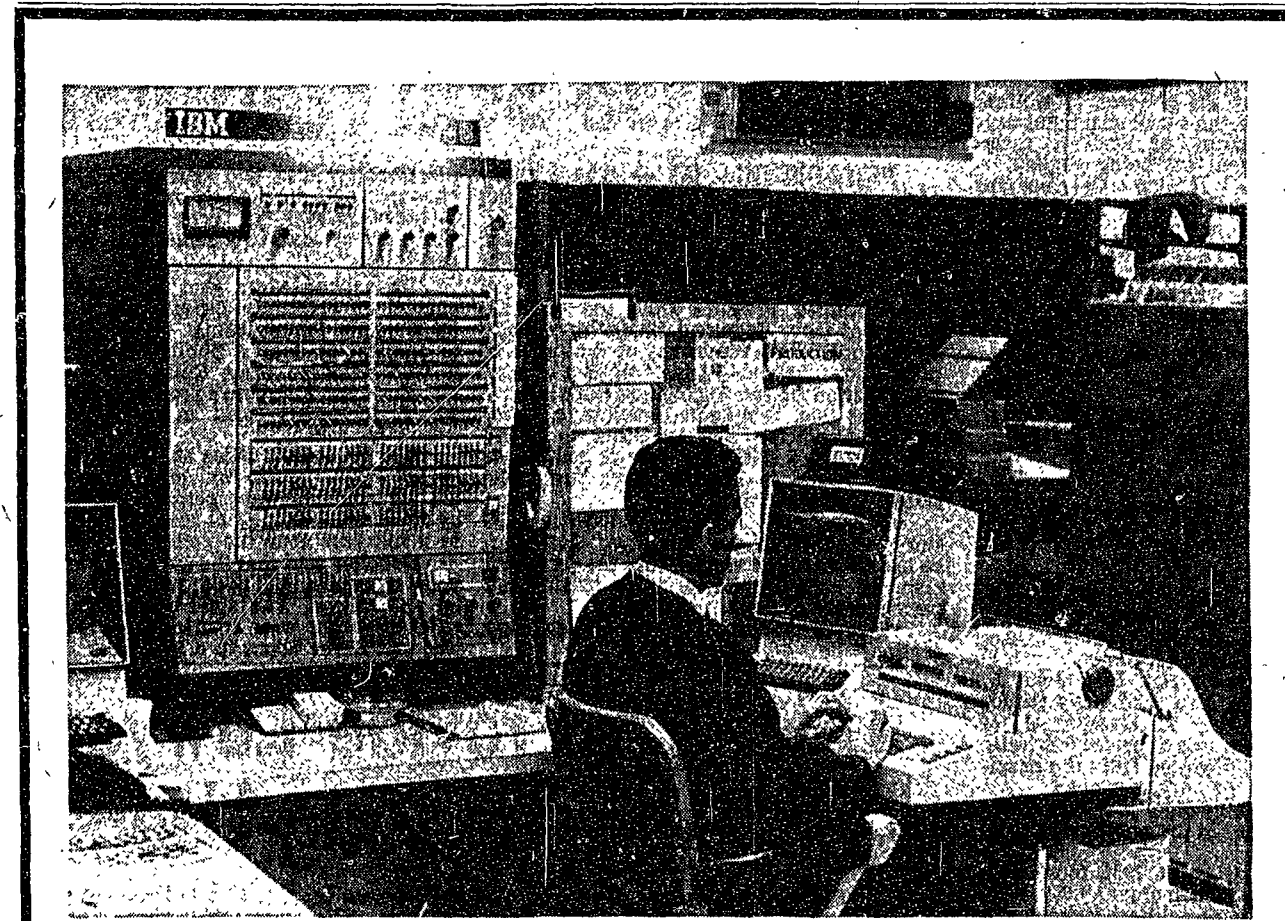
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