

Spring Is Really Here

President Johnson's surprise decision not to seek renomination coupled with his announcement of a halt in the bombing of North Vietnam's most heavily populated areas lends a refreshing breath of air to an already stagnant political year. If the President is genuinely sincere in his announcement, his long repeated pledges of self-sacrifice to help the nation can finally be believed.

For the President, it is unfortunate that his decision on de-escalation has come so late in his political career. For the people of the United States, his decision should be a welcome change in a wearisome war policy which has become a dartboard for so many critics.

The Collegian in the past has taken its share of potshots at the President. For a change, we applaud him now.

If his decision to remove himself from politics to completely devote himself to solving the nation's most pressing foreign and domestic problems is true, he may be more sophisticated and more competent a President than his rural background and actions have so often implied. If the President's latest bid to Hanoi (although it could have been stronger) is to succeed, perhaps he needs the support of his nation more so than ever until November.

That is not to say, of course, that the contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination should be neglected. Both McCarthy and Kennedy have their major obstacle—LBJ's expected bid for re-election—removed. Now they have each other to

worry about.

And, at the moment, President Johnson has, if the phrase can be applied, outclassed his fellow partymen. While they've been talking, he's been doing something.

Although his decision to halt the bombing may not result in the successful termination of the Vietnam conflict, at least it shows a change in his past stubborn nature and seemingly senseless standstill policy in Southeast Asia. His decision not to seek renomination gives peace candidates a much softer campaign trail.

In short, the President's announcements show a willingness to change. That, in turn, promises hope.

On WDFM Radio-91.1

4-4:05 p.m. — WDFM News	(Continued)
4:05-6 p.m. — Music of the Masters	7:45-8 p.m. — USG Press Conference (WDFM and The Daily Collegian interview USG President, Jeff Long)
6-6:05 p.m. — WDFM News	8-10 p.m. — The Sound of Folk Music with Danny Estersohn
6:05-7 p.m. — After Six (Popular, easy-listening)	10-10:15 p.m. — WDFM News
7-7:15 p.m. — Dateline News (Comprehensive campus, national and international news, sports, and weather)	10:15-12 midnight — Symphonic Notebook
7:15-7:45 p.m. — After Six	12-12:05 a.m. — WDFM News



Mike Serrill

Politics 1968: 'A Tale Told by an Idiot'

"You see, sir, I've written this political novel," the enthusiastic young writer told the eminent political scientist. "And I'd like to know if you think it will be a success." "Go on," said the expert sceptically, convinced that only eminent political scientists like himself are capable of creating political novels.

"Well, first, the United States gets involved in this land war in Southeast Asia," the young scribe began.

"Now why the devil would the United States want to get involved in a land war in Asia," the authority on such things scoffed.

"It's very complicated," replied the imaginative young man. "A combination of vague formal and informal commitments, misdirected anti-communism and stupidity in Washington."

His Eminence frowned. Anyway, this President by default from the South (his predecessor was assassinated) drags us deeper and deeper into this guerrilla war. But even our huge military machine cannot cope with modern guerrilla warfare, especially since Russia and China are supplying the enemy with arms.

"Absurd," laughed the political scientist. "No administration would allow itself to get in such a tangle."

"And what's more," continued the novelist, caught up in his own fantastic story, "the United States is at the same time being rocked by huge race riots, but because of the cost of the war Congress refuses to allocate money to rehabilitate the ghettos. Thousands of students and intellectuals stage violent anti-war demonstrations. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee becomes one of the most vehement critics of the war."

"Oh, come on," shrieked the listener, shocked at the writer's lack of political sagacity. "Congress has stood firmly behind the Administration in every war since 1865."

"Now this is the topper," proceeded the narrator, undaunted. "A Democratic Senator from the Midwest is so concerned about the sad state of political affairs that he decides to oppose the President on an anti-war platform in the next election and begins stamping the nation, without the support of the leaders of the Democratic Party and without any money."

"Impossible," cried the political mentor. "That would be political suicide. And it would split the party irrevocably. No politician would consider it. I'm afraid you have a lot to learn about politics, son."

"Not at all," insisted the writer. "Thousands of students flock to the Senator's aid. He receives thousands of dollars daily from peace-loving businessmen. Without the help of the Democratic political machine he comes within 230 votes of beating the President in the New Hampshire primary."

The professor was speechless with indignation, but fascinated.

"Next, the enemy in Southeast Asia stages a massive offensive and completely discredits the Administration's war policy. The President struggles in vain to maintain his long since shattered credibility. He finally succumbs to the polls, calls the de-escalation of the war and retires from the presidential race, despite the fact that the majority of the population is hawkish and despite the fact that he probably would have won the nomination and the election because a Southern racist had entered the presidential race and split the Republicans."

The literary novice sat back, waiting for the expert's reaction.

"I suggest that you cancel any plans for publishing this horrible book and spend the next few years taking courses in foreign policy and political theory. The absurd set of circumstances you have devised are completely implausible—it couldn't happen in a million years."

Letters to the Editor

Wake Up

TO THE EDITOR: A few days before finals last term I had occasion to visit Harvard University for the Fifth Annual China Conference. Attending were students and faculty representing every area of the nation. The main purpose of the conference was discussion of China. However, topics of interest turned to informal conversation on student activism.

In three days, I came to realize that young people around the country were directing their efforts to doing things within their institutions of learning and for the nation.

The New Hampshire primary election was the most recent example. Senator McCarthy's campaign was inspired by young college students who came in droves to help. It was said that the young inspired him rather than his inspiring the young.

My point is simple. I think it is high time that Penn State students come out of their slumber and realize their individual and collective potential. In four years of responsible observation, I have come to the conclusion that the average student at this university neglects his duty as a citizen.

I beg you to take part in the political life of this country and the student activities of this university. To cite a most recent example of student apathy: last week student government sponsored a boycott of a book store. The goal was to get higher prices for used books. Yet, students passively walked into the store and bought and sold books against their own best interests. Most of those participating in the boycott were seniors. They are not the ones who will benefit. Every student in this university should be

down there in support, and certainly no one should patronize this store while it is being boycotted.

There is an election of student government officers coming this term. I think it is the responsibility of the candidates to direct their campaigns and their thoughts toward student activism. We have a voice in this nation. With effective consideration, it can be used to our best interests and to the best interests of the University and the nation. Students should come out and support a candidate.

It is also a Presidential election year. I think it is the responsibility for each young person in this country to support the candidate of his choice. Whether it is Kennedy, Nixon, Rockefeller, McCarthy or Johnson, your voice is important.

Student spirit is the new spirit of this country. President Kennedy was our hope in early youth, now as we grow older, it is imperative that we create hope of our own with good, honest effort.

This spring and coming fall, the students of this university should forget they're in Happy Valley and move back into the world. Let us use effectively the power we have, so in the end we can not complain that we are the instruments of a generation that does not understand us.

Mark Taxel '68

LETTER POLICY

The Daily Collegian accepts letters to the editor regarding Collegian news coverage or editorial policy on 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.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

Alpha Kappa Alpha, 8 p.m., 217 Hetzel Union Building	ICCB, 6:30 p.m., 216 HUB
Arts and Arch. Student Council, 215-216 HUB	IFC, 3 p.m., 216 HUB
Class of '69, 8:45 p.m., 214 HUB	Jr. Residents Exec Board, 6 p.m., 214 HUB
German Dept., 6:30 p.m., HUB	MRC, 7:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Assembly Hall	SDS, 7:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB
GSA, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB	Spring Week, 6:30 p.m., 215 HUB

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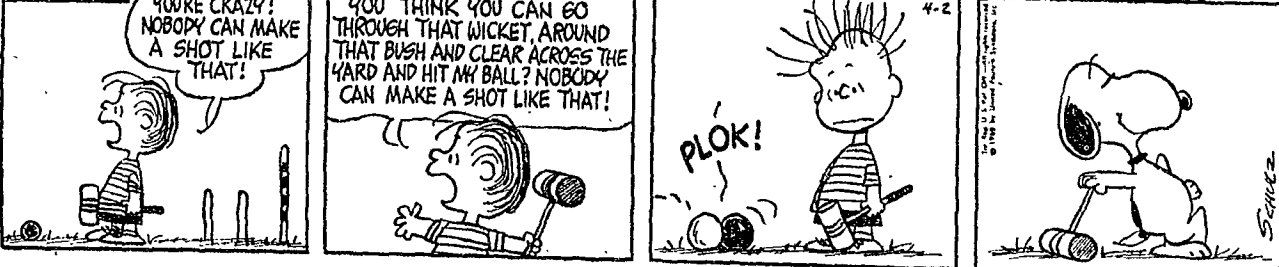
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TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1968

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