

Bookstore Questions

The Undergraduate Student Government ended its bookstore boycott Saturday. The Whitman Book Store in Philadelphia, which had offered to supply University students with textbooks at a discount of 18 per cent under the prices charged by State College merchants, withdrew its offer at about the same time. In other words, the proposal for an on-campus book store might be dying again.

Steve Gerson, chairman of the Administrative Action Committee, said he has been in touch with a western Pennsylvania book dealer and has arranged to purchase books at a 15 per cent discount.

Gerson's determination to make the on-campus bookstore a reality is admirable. But, with the latest development from the Whitman Book Store, an important question comes to mind — is an on-campus bookstore able to become a reality? Can an on-campus bookstore really sell books at prices below those charged by merchants downtown? Does the comment from Harold Herman, manager of the Whitman Book Store, that book prices 18 per cent under those charged here are "financially not feasible" mean that the system in State College is not so exorbitant after all?

These are questions that must be considered in light of these recent developments. Perhaps the proposal for an on-campus bookstore has been around for 30 years because no one has found a better solu-

tion to the setup the downtown merchants have. Naturally, no student enjoys shelling out \$30 or so each term for books. But, if an on-campus bookstore would have to charge the same prices, does it really matter if students buy books downtown or on campus?

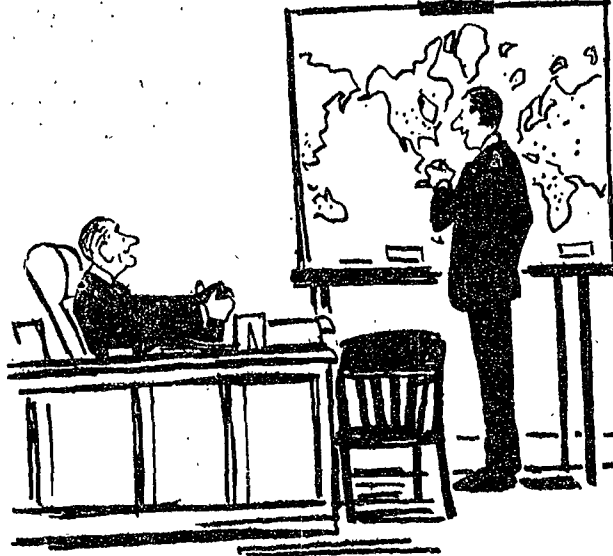
Gerson says that this western Pennsylvania book dealer will offer books at prices 15 per cent under those of downtown merchants. Will this merchant in turn, withdraw his offer? If he doesn't, can he be counted on to supply enough books to meet the demand? Can he be counted on to supply books in the first place?

There are a lot of questions to consider. Now it seems the on-campus bookstore issue is going to be shelved again. And, at this point, there is some indication to think that maybe it should be.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

Ad Hoc Committee on Fraternity Affairs, 3 p.m., 217-218	KeyStone Society, 8:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB
Metzel Union Building AWS, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB	New Party, 1 p.m., 214 HUB
College of Education, 6:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB	Rangers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Wagner
Comparative Literature Lecture, 8 p.m., 117 Assembly Hall	Science Student Council, 7 p.m., 215-216 HUB
	UBA, 8 a.m., HUB Cardroom
	YAF, 7:30 p.m., 214 HUB

BERRY'S WORLD



"Just for fun, let's stick a pin in a place where there is NO potential crisis!"

J. Robert Shore

Why Not Boycott Books?

There's so much to say about President Johnson's message to the American public Sunday night. One doesn't know where to begin. Because of his personal courage, because of what he's done for this country, Lyndon Baines Johnson will probably go down in history as a great President.

If only the President had realized that he should have halted the bombing of North Vietnam before January though. The Tet offensive might have been prevented. Johnson could have halted all the bombing in the North because there would be no siege at Khe Sanh and no battle at Hue.

There certainly is no dearth of comment on the President's address. You are being smothered with analysis, opinion and speculation. But if you can forget about the Presidency for a minute . . . To ease your eyes and mind, let's talk about the student government's recent activity.

Last week USG decided to boycott the Student Book Store. It seems that this store deals in the largest volume of used books in State College. The book store buys back students' books at 50 per cent of their list price, like most book stores, and sells them back to students at 80 per cent of the list price, unlike most book stores who are members of the National Association of College Stores and who resell used books at 75 per cent of their original cost, claims student government.

Our student leaders obviously don't care for an organized and efficiently run bookstore. It doesn't seem to phase them that the Student Book Store employs more than 50 students — more than any other book store — at the beginning of each term. By the way, none of the students was fired during the boycott when business, of course, wasn't as usual.

Student leaders don't care that the store is only two years old. It doesn't seem to matter that while Keeleers and Metzgers have been getting rich at the students' expense for years, the owner of the Student Book Store is just starting out.

If USG really wanted to do something worthwhile it would have boycotted all the bookstores. That would have been fair to all the owners. It would also have been a boon to the students.

Without books, monstrous classes couldn't exist. Teaching would take place on a Socratic level. Dialectic would reign while rhetoric would be left to sophomore writers.

Just think of the time reading wastes. That time could be spent doing. Says Goethe Faust: "Aye! Wedded to this concept like a wife, I find this wisdom's final form: / He only earns his freedom, and his life / Who takes them every day by storm . . ."

Who needs reading today anyway? Why read about Africa when you can take a plane and be there in hours? Why read a book when you can see the movie? Why read about equations and grammar when you can count and write with a teacher's instruction and practice?

You read that 20 minus 10 is 10. So what? Your mother gives you a \$20 bill for a 10-cent item and the clerk gives you 90 cents in change. When your mother sends you back to the store with a sore posterior you know how to count. No book can teach as well as your mother's hand.

Books are for snooks. We'd be much better off if we didn't have to rely on books. Teachers would have to quit rationalizing and start thinking for themselves. Originality would thrive; conformity would fade out.

If our student government had been a bit more intelligent, it would have put all the book stores out of business with a massive boycott. There's still time. Especially since USG has nothing else to do this term except to elect new officials.

On WDFM Radio-91.1

6-8 a.m. — John Schutrick with Top Forty, news capsules every 15 minutes
 8-10 a.m. — Dave Handler with Top Forty, news capsules every 15 minutes
 4-4:05 p.m. — WDFM News
 4:05-6 p.m. — Music of the Masters with Chris Aupperle (Bersanti—Concerti Grossi; Lieberman — Concerto for Jazz Band; Shostakovich — Piano Concerto #1)
 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 (Continued)
 7:45-9 p.m. — Focus
 8-10 p.m. — Top on the Aisle with Ray Laird (Music from film and Broadway Theater) Featuring — Complete score from "Victory at Sea"
 10-10:05 p.m. — WDFM News
 10:05-12 midnight — Symphonic Notebook with Samuel Edelman (Prokofiev—Violin Concerto #1; Bruch—Violin Concerto #1; Arnold — Guitar Concerto)
 12-12:05 a.m. — WDFM News

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The Daily Collegian

62 Years of Editorial Freedom

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PAGE TWO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1968

Letters to the Editor

The Apartment Question

TO THE EDITOR: I believe that it is time that the so-called statements of fact by the Dean of Women's office concerning the infeasibility of women living off campus be repudiated. It is my firm belief, as the president of the Town Independent Men and the chairman of the Undergraduate Student Government Off-Campus Living Committee, that there is room for the number of 21-year-old girls who wish to move into apartments.

Mrs. O'Hara, as reported in Tuesday's Collegian, said that the Administration, two years ago, considered admitting enough students to balance the senior women who would then be able to move in town. According to their study, there wasn't enough classroom space and professors to do this. She failed to explain that the figures she used were for the entire senior class and not just the 21-year-olds.

Granted, it might have been a problem at that time to allow all the senior women out of the dorms, but this is not the case being considered. Just last fall the Dean of Women's office insisted that 1,000 girls would move off campus if 21-year-olds were allowed out of their dorms. Yet, today there is no mention of this figure since our evidence (through a survey conducted by USG and AWS) now shows that there would be only about 300 who would move if allowed.

I am astonished that the Dean of Women's office can have so many opinions concerning availability of housing, without having completed any realistic research. The Administration has consistently indicated a "hands off" policy concerning downtown living, and claims it does not involve itself. Yet it feels that its opinion is more concrete than the evidence compiled by TIM.

I would like to ask the following questions, paramount in disputing the opinions of the Dean of Women's office: ●Why is it that dorm space was sufficiently full this year so that over 100 fraternity pledges could move out of the dorms in the middle of the year?

●Why were graduate students, who wanted to live in the dorms, turned away or placed in the Nittany area after Atherton Hall was filled? Why can't Old Main encourage graduate students to live in the dorms?

●Why is the Dean of Women's office continuing to say that there will be difficulty filling the dorms when the Student Affairs office and the Office of Registration expect that the dorms will be overcrowded next year? Because of the new draft laws affecting the graduate students,

more undergraduates will be admitted (perhaps 1,000) in order to keep the University at a level of 25,000 students. Since this increase will consist of new freshmen or transfer students, these students will be required to live in the dorms.

Dorothy L. Harris, Dean of Women, says she feels that rents will go up, competition will be too great for apartments and this will be hard on the town men.

●Finally, does the Dean of Women's office actually believe that I, as TIM president, and with four years experience working with State College housing problems as TIM's housing chairman, would advocate a plan, as I do, of letting 21-year-old women off campus if it would offer a great problem for my constituents either in rent hikes or competition for apartments.

TIM Council has conducted the only statistical survey of cost for off campus living, has offered the only available housing advice and is the only publisher of a town guidebook to housing conditions. Yet the Dean of Women's office has never contacted TIM for advice or for its opinions in formulating its own opinions.

It is my hope that the Office of Student Affairs, headed by Dr. Charles Lewis, will look at this problem directly if the Dean of Women's office continues to judge things by opinion and let the facts be disregarded.

Ed Dench,
 President, Town Independent Men's Council

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.



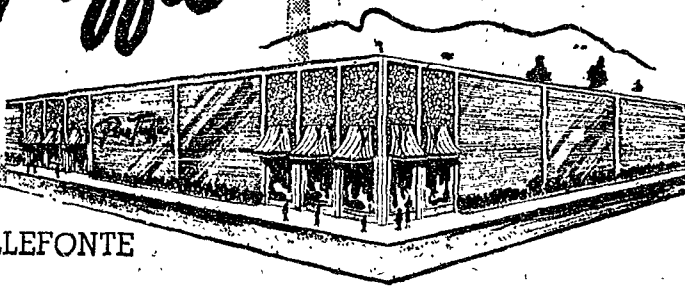
Collegian Open House

TONIGHT
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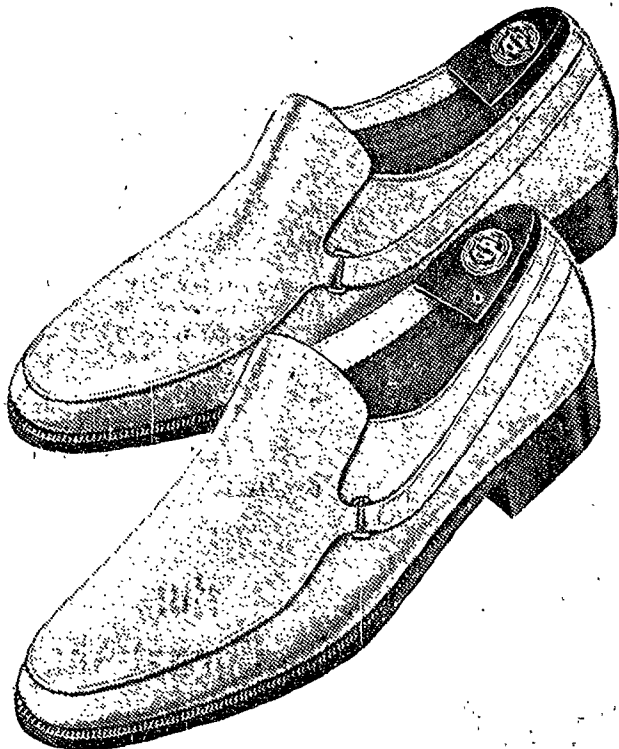
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INTERNATIONAL FILMS

SPRING SCHEDULE

Thursdays 7 and 9 P.M. HUB AUD. Tickets 50c

APRIL 4 **THE 400 BLOWS** France (1959)
 Dir. Francois Truffaut

APRIL 11 **THE SILENCE** Sweden (1963)
 Dir. Ingmar Bergman

APRIL 18 **SHOOT THE PIANO PLAYER** France (1960)
 Dir. Francois Truffaut with Charles Aznavour

APRIL 25 **RULES OF THE GAME** France (1939)
 Dir. Jean Renoir

MAY 2 **THE CARETAKER** Great Britain (1963)
 Dir. Clive Donner Screenplay—Harold Pinter

MAY 9 **THE BIG DEAL ON MADONNA STREET** Italy (1960)
 Dir. Mario Monicelli with Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale, Vittorio Gassman and Toto

MAY 16 **NOTHING BUT A MAN** USA (1964)
 Dir. Michael Roemer

MAY 23 **SAWDUST AND TINSEL** Sweden (1953)
 Dir. Ingmar Bergman

MAY 30 **LES ABYSSES** France (1963)
 Dir. Nico Papatakis

JUNE 6 **THE MUSIC ROOM** India (1959)
 Dir. Satyajit Ray

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