

Can PSU Fulfill?

Much is heard about gaps these days. There is the infamous credibility gap which supposedly emanates from Washington. There is the ever-widening generation gap which is the modern way of separating the men from the boys.

And yesterday at the University, a new gap appeared—this one of the communications variety. It separated the whites from the blacks.

Approximately 100 black students, led by Douglas Association President Wilbert Manley, confronted Charles L. Lewis in the Dean of Men's Office. For three hours Lewis talked with the students, who apparently were upset over a remark attributed to Lewis in The Sunday Bulletin, of Philadelphia.

In an article discussing student unrest at Penn State, the Bulletin reported, "He (Lewis) didn't believe the situation at Penn State was as 'dangerous as at Columbia' because Penn State 'is not in an urban area and not contaminated by Harlem.'"

Understandably, the black students were offended by the use of the word "contaminated." Who wouldn't be offended to be told that one's race "makes impure, unclean or corrupt by contact," as the dictionary defines contaminate.

Lewis' choice of words was indeed unfortunate. That it was merely a slip of the tongue is not easily believed by a people who are burning with the smoldering remnants of centuries of abuse and shame.

Even a retraction in today's Bulletin will make little difference to the people who have been called inferior for 300 years. The blacks have heard before that they contaminate. That is nothing new. What is new is their spirit to confront the white man.

The blacks who surrounded a perspiring and nervous Charles Lewis yesterday showed that the black is no longer willing to take the abuse of the white man.

The students successfully demanded that Lewis retract his statement, and by

the time they filed out the corridors of Old Main, the signature of Charles L. Lewis was neatly emblazoned on a list of 12 black demands.

No one can doubt that the demands are legitimate. Of all 12, the demand that the University increase the number of black students deserves the most attention. That a state University can have less than one per cent black students is intolerable. The demands to increase the number of black professors and graduate students are similarly valid.

The Administration knows it will not be easy to increase tenfold the number of black students by 1970. But it is time that the University stopped looking for the easy way out. The token programs of recruiting blacks do not carry much weight now.

It is another indication of the communication gap which plagues our multi-versity that a mere slip of the tongue precipitated the incident.

Lewis could never have guessed that the comments he made to a newspaper reporter would have the effect they did. His appraisal of the situation, as outlined in the Bulletin story, was appalling in its naivete.

In the paragraph immediately following his remarks on Harlem and Columbia, Lewis discussed the avenue of communication between Administration and students:

"Dr. Lewis said one of the administration's problems is that it is hard for it to 'communicate' with the 'activist students' in SDS. He said it has not been so difficult to make contact with 'black militants' on campus."

Lewis made his contact yesterday. But, by the end of the day, his brow beaded with perspiration, his bow tie drooping, Lewis may have changed his mind about the relative difficulty of communicating with black students. For, by then, his name was affixed to 12 demands that the University will be hard-pressed to fulfill.

But fulfill them it should. —P.J.L.

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TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1968

BERRY'S WORLD



"I'm all for jogging, Winterbotham! But on your OWN time!"

© 1968 by NEA, Inc. John Berry

Collegian Invites Faculty Writers

University faculty are invited to submit articles to Collegian's "Faculty Forum." Columns of opinion from all members of the faculty are welcome.

The articles should be type-

written and triple-spaced and should not exceed 75 lines in length. Interested faculty should bring their articles to Collegian office, 20 Sackett Building.

Dick Yarzab '68

What's Wrong with IDA?

TO THE EDITOR: The contents of the May 10 issue of the Collegian confirm what many students have long believed: That SDS and its "traveling correspondent," Neil Buckley, are indeed sick.

The position of SDS on the matter of weapons research is clearly unreasonable. Repugnant though they may be, weapons are essential for the survival of the United States. Imagine the nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union and Red China trained on our nation. How would we deter an all-out attack—with demonstrations in front of the Soviet Embassy?

The world is not ready for total disarmament on either a unilateral or multilateral basis. As long as people are human there will be war, for such is the nature of human beings. The best we, as peace-loving people, can do is to deter war with the threat of retaliation. I challenge SDS to name one conflict in the history of the Defense Department which the United States initiated, rather than reacted to, with its weapons.

To have the best weapons, the Defense Department must employ the best minds. This means using scientists and engineers, as well as others, from college and university campuses.

I see nothing more evil about weapons research at the University than I do about agricultural, or psychological, or air pollution research. It interferes with the educational process more than these. And it is no more inconducive to the educational pro-

cess than football games, jammies, or demonstrations in front of Old Main.

SDS had better forget the IDA and weapons research and concentrate on other problems—like the high cost of haircuts. Or are they already doing that?

Gary L. Oplinger '70
 William G. Butler Jr. '70

One Sport at a Time

TO THE EDITOR: How will the University explain to parents that their son is on the critical list because he was hit by a tennis racket while playing basketball? How can this tennis player ever forget the other's expression the split second before the racket hit?

This accident is very possible when basketball courts are combined with tennis courts; this combination is exactly what the University has set up. Basketball courts have been added to the tennis courts behind Pennypacker and McKean Halls and the nets of four of the courts have been completely removed.

The first thought for consideration is just what are the tennis players supposed to do? They could remain on these courts and try to play; however, their games will be constantly interrupted by lost basketballs and by players. Their game is further hindered since they can't use corner shots because this area is no longer tennis territory.

And it's not just the corners which are the overlapping areas, for the boundaries for basketball extend to the middle of the tennis court. Since they can in no way play an uninterrupted game of tennis, the tennis players must find different courts—where?

The courts behind the Natatorium have been ruined by basketball nets already. Pollock courts can't be used between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday thru Friday because of girls' physical education classes. North Halls has only four courts and those by Rec Hall are used for boys' classes. And besides these additional factors, the courts are overcrowded to begin with. So, there is no place to go.

But most important is the fact that there is not room for both basketball and tennis in one area. Accidents are going to occur—who is going to accept the blame? The unconscious basketball player who has just jumped out to stop the ball? The tennis player who didn't see the other until too late? The University for erecting this dangerous combination of courts?

Lynne Foote '71

Questioning Authority

TO THE EDITOR: Kudos to the participants in the "tree-in!" A small group of activists spoke and acted in behalf of many of us.

They pleaded on the grounds of aesthetics and the common interest that the trees be spared. Their protest did not save the trees. It did demonstrate, however, that they were fulfilling their responsibility engendered by their education, i.e., to engage in "the aggressive questioning of authority, privilege and tradition." (Theodore Roszak)

Perhaps we ought to have a bigger and better — and hopefully more successful — protest against the projected execution of three men at the Rockview Correctional Institute during June and July 1968. The educated and the enlightened have the burden and responsibility of challenging barbarism and tradition that menace humane and civilized values.

Just as we get exercised when the lives of trees are threatened, so we should get concerned when, in the name of justice and societal sanctions, human beings are about to be cut down.

John Withall,
 Head Secondary Education

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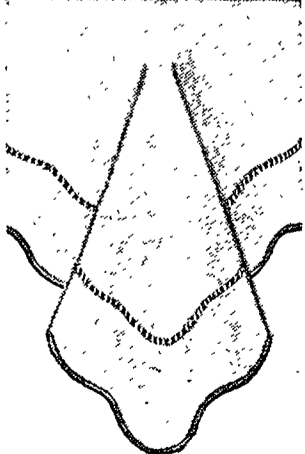
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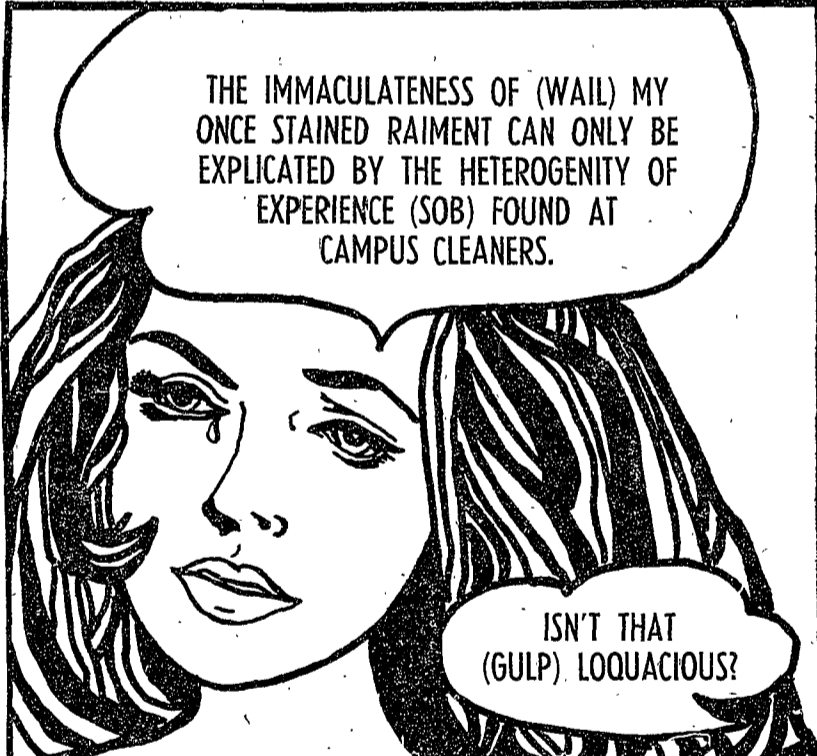
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