

To Submit Findings to Senate

Committee Completes Collegian Probe

The University Senate ad hoc Committee on The Daily Collegian has completed its examination of the relationship of the Collegian and Collegian Inc., its publisher, to the University. The committee will submit its evaluation and recommendations to the Senate at its June 3 meeting.

The committee was appointed by R. J. Scannell, chairman of the senate, on March 27, as a result of criticism of the newspaper concerning alleged bias in news coverage and editorial policy.

To carry out its examination, the committee has met with members of The Collegian staff, Collegian Inc. and its Board of Directors and professional newspaper editors.

The committee also conducted an open hearing at which students, faculty members and State College residents appeared to offer both favorable and unfavorable testimony concerning the Collegian.

Recommendations by Witnesses

Various recommendations by witnesses included maintaining the status quo of Collegian operation and editorial policy, increased financial support by the University to aid in improving the paper, and placing the Collegian under stricter university control.

It also was suggested that the University sever all relationships with the Collegian, allowing the paper to be published independently. The following is the complete text of the Committee's report.

Under articles of incorporation by the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County, Pennsylvania, in 1949 Collegian, Inc., was formed to publish a student paper at the University. This incorporation permits the Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., to carry on business as any business organization with the power to enter into contracts and sue and be sued in the courts; frees the University of legal responsibility for what the Board might do or what the paper might publish and makes The Daily Collegian legally accountable only to the Board as its publisher.

The relationship between the University, Collegian, Inc., and The Collegian is complicated by the fact that the student paper itself is also chartered under Senate regulations as a student organization. As such, the paper is provided with quarters on the campus and receives money through Associated Student Activities, amounting to about 30 per cent of its income. The newspaper is distributed free-of-charge to students. A further complication in the relationship is that, though legally not required to be accountable to the campus community, Collegian, Inc., and The Collegian are committed to being so. This accountability is effected by the method of selection of members of the Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., they are appointed by three bodies that include elected members representing the faculty and the student body, the Senate (six members), the Undergraduate Student Government (six members), and the Graduate Student Association (two members) — and by the fact that the opportunity to become a member of the editorial and business staffs of The Collegian is open to any student. This membership on the Board of Directors and on the editorial staff of the paper is the end result of a process of representative democracy and is the product of students and faculty of the University.

Criticism and Responsibility

It is apparent to the Committee that a number of members of the University community are disturbed by what they consider The Collegian's failure to exercise satisfactorily its responsibility to the constituency which it serves. Much of the adverse criticism has been directed toward particular incidents in which it is alleged that the paper was unfair or biased in its reporting of the news. In view of these criticisms, the Committee feels that its recommendations should be directed toward strengthening the adherence of the paper's staff to the highest possible journalistic practices and principles.

There exists also a body of criticism directed against editorial treatment and what has been called the tone of The Collegian. No one has suggested that student editors should be coerced into adopting a particular editorial viewpoint. Indeed, to exercise any form of censorship or pre-publication review contradicts all the principles of a free press in an open society. Yet, coupled with the exercise of journalistic freedom is the responsibility to insure that truth and accuracy be served and that the best interests of the community remain central. The only means by which these goals can be attained is through constant evaluation. Such an evaluation procedure is also consistent with the principles of education.

To serve on The Collegian staff is, and should be, an educational experience. The very heart of the educational process is to criticize and be criticized, and this is no less true for the paper's staff than for anyone else on the campus. Part of the tradition of a campus newspaper is to be critical, yet it is incumbent upon those who publish such a paper to maintain a structure in which a climate of open and constructive criticism can be brought to bear against the paper itself. It is through such a constant testing and exchange of ideas among elements of the University that the educative aspect of the paper is assured and the community interests are served.

Operating this year in an atmosphere of heightened tensions because of student activism and turmoil in the American society, The Collegian's news coverage and editorial policies have been the object of a critical barrage perhaps unprecedented in the 82-year history of a student paper on the campus. The Committee feels that the paper, on the whole, has been faced with a difficult situation in attempting to maintain its equilibrium against pressures on all sides. It is apparent that The Collegian is neither as bad as its worst critics maintain nor as good as it could be. Objective outside evaluations have resulted in The Collegian's winning national journalistic awards of distinction.

The Committee feels that since the present corporate and financial structure has succeeded fairly well it should be continued with only such modifications that would encourage a more broadly-based and active participation by the three main interest groups, the faculty and students who make up the Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., the students who produce the paper, and the University community under whose general auspices and with whose financial support the paper is now published.

Student-run Paper—Necessary

All interested parties have agreed that a student-run campus newspaper serves a necessary function in the University as a journal of opinion and criticism and as a source of information about campus-related activities. In order to achieve these goals three alternatives presented themselves to the Committee.

To recommend continuance of the present corporate structure with no changes. To recommend that The Collegian either sever itself completely from the University or to cut the University subsidy to the paper and permit it to maintain itself on a voluntary subscription basis.

To recommend the continuance of the present corporate and financial structure with modifications to encourage a more broadly-based and active participation by the three main interest groups, the faculty and students who comprise the Board of Directors, the students who produce the paper, and the University community under whose general auspices and with whose financial support The Collegian is now published.

The first two alternatives seem intellectually, financially and educationally undesirable. Thus, in general terms, the recommendations follow the pattern of the third alternative, that the basic existing structure continue, but with provisions to increase the capacity of The Collegian to exercise a higher standard of journalism and be more responsive to campus feeling.

It is in the spirit of encouraging the building of a better newspaper by clarifying the relationships between the paper, Collegian, Inc., and the University, by opening channels of communication between the paper and its public, and by promoting closer cooperation among the several groups concerned that the Committee submits its recommendations.

Board of Directors

The Committee believes that the present method of appointments to Collegian, Inc. by the Senate, USG, and GSA, which include elected members representing the faculty and student body and all of which are officially recognized by the University, insures a representative group fairly and democratically selected. It, therefore, recommends:

That the present method of appointments be continued with the provision that the appointing bodies should understand that their representatives are not to be considered as spokesmen for their group but should act as individuals according to their own best judgment.

That in addition to the 14 Board members representing campus interests a professional Pennsylvania journalist be added, to be selected by the Board.

That to maintain a closer working relationship with The Collegian student editorial and business staffs and its adviser an Executive Committee be named by the Board of Directors. It would include the president of the Board, one student member, and one faculty member. It should meet frequently and regularly with the student staff to achieve closer liaison between the paper and its publisher.

That in order to insure more continuity the one-year terms of student directors should be increased to two-year terms.

That to insure that the Board of Directors' responsibility according to its by-laws be set forth clearly, the Board should complete its Statement of Purposes and Functions setting forth its role as publisher and establishing its general policy and that the statement be issued to The Collegian staff members and made available to other interested persons.

That the Board of Directors arrange to have The Collegian adviser, who serves a duly chartered student campus organization, included in the University's group insurance and hospitalization programs and the Pennsylvania retirement system.

University Allocation

The proposed budget for 1969-70 of The Collegian is based upon an allocation from the University of \$46,122.73, or about 29.5 of the paper's total income. The money would come from the University's allocation for student activities on recommendation by the Associated Student Activities Budget Advisory Committee and with the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

This proposed allocation would permit the paper to maintain a 50-50 ratio of advertising to editorial and news content. The Committee would like to see this allocation increased to maintain a better ratio between the space devoted to advertising and news and editorial content, permitting the paper to publish more official documents and texts, to give more news of student organizations and minor student activities, and to provide more in-depth studies and reports.

The Committee therefore recommends: That the University allocation be increased this year to a figure commensurate with the foregoing aims.

That Collegian, Inc., and the University administration explore three possibilities for restructuring the allocation arrangement: (a) the removal of the Collegian's financial assistance from the jurisdiction of the Associated Student Activities Budget Advisory Committee and the establishment of allocations based upon a fixed amount per student enrolled at the University Park Campus; (b) an allocation budgeted separately from the general student activities fund by the University administration and the Board of Trustees of the University; (c) establishment by the Board of Trustees of a regular per capita fee to be assessed to students for The Collegian, subject to a student referendum.

That when the Hetzel Union Building is enlarged, The Collegian as a chartered student activity, be provided with adequate facilities for its editorial and business operations.

That The Collegian, through Collegian, Inc., apply to the Penn State Foundation for funds to establish a reference library, or " morgue," to facilitate obtaining information on people, organizations, and events previously appearing in the news in writing news articles and features and follow-up stories.

Relations with News Sources

The Committee's hearings and deliberations indicated that there was a lack of trust between The Collegian staff and some of its news sources, especially those in the University administration. The Committee feels that the paper's editors and reporters believed University personnel often were not accessible and refused to comment on matters of public interest, and that news sources believed student reporters could not be relied upon to be accurate and often did not fully understand what they were to write about.

The Committee recommends that the following be done to improve relations: That, through the University Public Information Department, the principal University officials arrange frequent press conferences open not only to The Collegian reporters but also to representatives of other media.

That all officials, including those in student organizations, consider it a responsibility of their position to cooperate with reporters in providing news of public interest.

That The Collegian editor and city editor make sure that reporters are fully instructed before they approach news sources for information.

That The Collegian editor and adviser work out a system of follow-up checks with news sources on the accuracy of stories on a continuing basis, perhaps by sending clippings of articles to them for correction and comment.

Many of the problems facing The Collegian editors and their staff are common to all newspapers. The Committee believes that they would benefit from consultation with professional journalists on a regular basis. It therefore recommends that a Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., select a Professional Consulting Board of five or six persons who would come to the campus twice a year to meet with the staff, exchange views, and consider editorial and financial difficulties.

A Campus Press Council

In view of the adverse criticism of the accuracy and completeness of The Collegian news coverage, of its alleged irresponsibility, and of the charge that there is no means of calling it to account for misrepresentations, the Committee recommends that a Campus Press Council be established to maintain surveillance of the paper's performance, comparing it to that of other media in the area, and to report regularly to the campus community on its findings.

The Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., sought to achieve some of these ends in establishing its Committee on Accuracy and Fair Play, but the plan thus far has failed to function satisfactorily. Without necessarily suggesting it serves no effective purpose, the Committee feels that more should be done in this respect and that it can be done better by an independent panel representing all elements of the campus community.

Guidelines for the establishment and work of such a Council can be found in the experience of the British Press Council, which for over 15 years has rendered judgments on ethical questions submitted to it and conducted its own studies of press performance, and in local press councils established in the United States. One campus community, that of Southern Illinois University, is already experimenting with such a Council.

The initiative for establishing such a Council should be taken by one of the following: The Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., the University Senate, USG or GSA.

The Press Council Concept

In 1945 a Commission on Freedom of the Press, financed by grants from Time, Inc., and the American-British News Council, was appointed to examine the media in the United States with the end of suggesting ways in which a press could be obtained that would adequately serve the needs of the American society. One of its proposals, contained in its report in 1947, was "the establishment of a new and independent agency to appraise and report annually upon the performance of the press."

A year after the U.S. Commission began its studies, the British House of Commons adopted a resolution calling for a Royal Commission to inquire into the financing, control, management, and ownership of the press with the object of "furthering free expression of opinion through the press and the greatest of opinion accuracy in the presentation of news." The Royal Commission in its report to Parliament in 1949 reached the same conclusion about the need for a press council as the U.S. Commission on Freedom of the Press.

Thus, two societies faced with similar problems—the growing power of the mass media and their shortcomings in providing a forum for the discussion of all points of view and disseminating full and accurate information on public matters—arrived at the same partial solution. In Britain, the General Council of the Press, an independent voluntary professional organization with the duties but not the powers of similar structures in law and medicine, was established in 1953. It has, in its almost 15 years of functioning, won the support and respect of both the press and the public.

In the United States, the question of a press council has been chiefly a matter of discussion at meetings of journalistic and professional societies. Though the idea has been put into effect locally in a number of towns and cities, typical of the proposals put forth for a council to monitor journalism in behalf of the public was one by Barry Bingham, publisher of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times. He suggested a council of from "three to five prominent citizens" who would hear complaints against "local paper" and give "their own independent and continuing evaluation of press performance." During the past year, the Mellett Fund for a Free and Responsible Press, created through a bequest from the editor and columnist Lowell Mellett to the American Newspaper Guild, financed the establishment of local press councils in a half-dozen towns and cities. The Board of Directors reported in May of 1969 that its efforts had resulted in a "significant contribution to the strengthening of a free press and the democratic process and to the development of a responsive, creative, and constructive resolution of community conflicts."

The Penn State School of Journalism has several faculty members with special qualifications for serving as consultants on such a project. They are H. Eugene Goodwin, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mellett Fund; John M. Harrison, who studied the British Press Council on a trip to England; and Donald L. Smith, who has investigated the legal problems involved.

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Colloquy Panels Discuss Relevant Issues

Experts Discuss Media—Its Effect on Mankind

By BETTI RIMER and LINDA OLSHEKSKY Collegian Staff Writers

By the time the average person reaches the age of 18 he has spent 40 per cent of his life watching television—more time than he has spent in school, according to James Jimirro, manager, international sales, CBS.

Jimirro and other mass media experts discussed the impact of the media in the Colloquy panel, "Does the Media Mold Mankind?" Friday night in Simmons Hall.

Men Mold Men

Stephen Schlow, Penn State instructor of theater arts, opened the discussion by stating that "the mass media do not mold mankind, but rather men mold mankind through the media."

Commenting on the question of whether art should be true to life, Schlow said, "Art should reveal something to us about our lives, not feed it back to us like jello."

Speaking of the influence of television on the average American, Jimirro noted that 94 per cent of the homes in the United States have television telephones, cars or even indoor plumbing.

NUC Reply To Arrest Of Student

(Continued from page one) The Central Administration: Administrators whose ostensible function is to work with students in a positive way to solve problems reveal that their true occupation is to act as police agents, refusing to discuss the legitimate grievances and demands of students but always ready to be on hand to identify students for punitive action in both University and civil proceedings. Student protest is never met with either an attempt to understand what is being said or give serious consideration to acting favorably upon the grievances and demands.

WDFM Schedule TODAY

3:20—News
3:25—Baseball, Penn State vs. Navy live from Beaver Field, with Marty Cook and Barry Jones
6:05—After Six, popular music
7:30—Dailies News
7:30—Commentary Sports
7:50—Comment
8:00—Sound of Folk Music
8:30—Jazz Panorama
9:30—Two on the Aisle, Broadway music

Panel Attempts To Define Law, Order, Dissent

By SANDY BAZONIS Collegian Staff Writer

Law and order. Although these two words are important and crucial today, few people can agree on their definition. To some they mean the quelling of a riot, an effective police force of the repression of dissent.

William Woodside, legal and research counsel for the Pennsylvania Senate, said that law and order becomes a "catchword for crazy things that do not relate to law and order."

The phrase should mean "the process by which a society governs itself," according to Woodside.

Robert G. Kennedy, a liaison between the mayor of Erie and the city's black community, said his concept of law and order was, "the having saying that shall not have to the have not."

The law punishes the rich and the poor in the same way for stealing bread or sleeping under a bridge, but according to Kennedy, "the rich don't have to steal bread or sleep under a bridge."

"Law and order is a part of a bigger issue," Henry L. Guttenplan, Penn State professor of law enforcement and corrections, said. "The bigger issue is how the justice is expected to be carried out by the police."

Guttenplan said police are only one part of the criminal system. "They don't enact the laws, present the State's case against the accused or prescribe the punishment as many people think they do," Guttenplan added.

Robert Eaton, first mate of the Quaker ship Phoenix which carried supplies to Vietnam, told the panel that the issue of law and order is critical when political issues become critical.

"Law and order is clearly a preserver of the status quo in the country," Eaton said. He added that the American Revolution was not based on legitimate dissent but on illegitimate dissent.

"There was nothing about law and order when we took this country from the Indian," Eaton said. He added that he has been operating on the other end of law and order "perhaps more than the other people on the panel." Eaton currently is awaiting a five-year sentence in a federal prison for resisting the draft.

Legitimate Issue

William Sennett, State Attorney General, said law and order is a legitimate issue. "This country was founded on dissent, criticism and debate," Sennett said. "But it is not the intent of authority to repress it. It is however, legitimate to say that the government cannot tolerate or condone violence."

Kennedy agreed that dissent can be legitimate. "It is necessary and vital," he said, "and as long as no one is physically harmed, whatever you do is valid."

"We restrict the term violence as outside the area of legitimate dissent. But violence does include protests, picketing or voiced opposition," Sennett said.

A debate started between panel members and the audience over the law's alleged protection of property first and people second. Kennedy cited a case where the law is concerned with property protection. He said that it was a felony to burn down a barn but only a misdemeanor to start a fire in a hotel.

Nation-wide Controls Urged To Combat Pollution Crisis

By JIM WIGGINS Collegian Staff Writer

The need for effective air pollution controls measures on a nationwide basis was stressed by panelists Sunday, considering "Pollution: What Do We Breathe When the Air is Gone?" in the final round of Colloquy discussions.

James Maloon, vice president for economic planning of the Columbia Gas Co., noting that air pollution is a problem the American public wishes to resolve, said, "technological programs and the marshaling of money resources as well as public support must be brought together to combat air pollution."

Company Starts Program

David Barr, employee of West Vaco paper company in Tyrone, calling the paper industry "one of the enlightened industries," said his company has realized the need for pollution control and has initiated a \$1 1/4 million program to eliminate the air pollution problem in Tyrone.

Wolfgang E. Meyer, professor of mechanical engineering and an expert on air pollution caused by automobiles, warned against "the growing and lethal danger of this type of pollution. When asked what could be done to curb pollution caused by automobile exhaust, he noted that automobile manufacturers are reluctant to produce cars with pollution control devices because of the great cost involved in such a project.

On the problem of controlling air pollution, James Hambright, member of the State Division of Air Pollution Control, contended that the public was at fault for not encouraging legislators to deal effectively with pollution problems. He said the lack of "strong continuing pressure on the part of citizens and civic organizations" was partly responsible for an "ongoing lack of widespread pollution control. Maloon agreed with Hambright, saying, "individuals must be willing to bear the cost of controlling pollution."

Regional Rape

The audience, however, including many area home owners, seemed to agree with Victor Yannacone, legal counsel of the Environmental Defense Fund, who contended that industry, not the public, was responsible for the control of air pollution. "Air pollution is regional rape," he said, "and corporations who rape our national resources must be treated as criminals."

"It is our responsibility to prevent environmental degradation through litigation in the courts. Letterwriting campaigns and other such tactics are not effective because industry is simply too strong," he said.

University scientists, professors and students for lack of interest in the air pollution problem. "Why not stop protesting the war and start protesting pollution, which may become the ultimate obstruction to academic freedom," he said.

Final Panel Discusses 'Future in Perspective'

Nearly 350 people attended the final panel of Colloquy, "The Future in Perspective . . . Where Do We Go From Here?" Sunday afternoon in Rec Hall.

Panelists were selected by the Colloquy Committee as the most articulate and representative guest speakers of the weekend. Panel members included John Muntonne, associate professor of Human Development; Nunzio Palladino, dean of the College of Engineering; Victor Yannacone, legal counsel of Environmental Defense Fund; Arnold Johnson, director of information of the Communist Party; Heather Leiper, Vocations for Social Change; Fletcher Byron, president of Koppers Corporation; and James Jimirro, manager of International Sales, CBS. The panel was moderated by Robert McDermott, assistant dean of the Graduate School.

Colloquy: 'Success'

Muntonne, who spoke first, said Colloquy is a success and will continue to exist. He read a letter he wrote, printed in the Colloquy program booklet, praising Colloquy and the students running it.

Palladino also complimented the Colloquy Committee and expressed the hope that "we will continue this, not only at the University level, but extend it to the college and department level."

He also said that the real question to be answered is whether the university should remain aloof from the social problems of contemporary society to discover and disseminate truth and knowledge in an atmosphere of objectivity and detachment, or whether universities themselves should become agencies of social change.

Objective, Uninvolved

"I question our ability to enter, as an institution, the areas of social change and remain dedicated to the determination of truth," Palladino said. "I think the individuals at the university should use their stores of expertise to effect social change, but the university as an institution should remain objective and uninvolved."

Yannacone said two choices are offered to those who want to effect social change — the law or the streets. "I opt for law," he said. "We can sue the legal process as a crucible in which certain ideas may be tested. Points of view examined, and to a certain extent scientific data evaluated, without bloodshed or violence."

His position is that the courtroom, not the streets, is the place for confrontation. "You have to pick the right forum," Yannacone told the students. "Your point of view has no chance of prevailing in the streets—you can't defeat the police in a physical battle—but you may well in a court of law."

Yannacone was questioned about what specific way students could use the law in their fight with the University, and he outlined a program for doing so.

"First you find out what kind of entity your school is. I assume this is a state chartered institution. Then you find out who is in charge of your institution. Then, if you are in charge of your institution, it's probably the Board of Trustees. You get their names. Then you prepare a position, alleging that the University has failed to fulfill its chartered obligations and state your grievances." Then, he said, comes the really difficult part, getting documentation and showing that what you cite as failures of the University really exist.

In addition to documentation, you have to support your claim that there is a better way to do it by presenting a clear alternative, perhaps something done at other schools, Yannacone said.