

A Word of Praise

This Winter and Spring Terms, the College of the Liberal Arts will offer at least five new courses dealing with African and Afro-American culture and the contribution of the black man to American culture. Information on black culture will also be infused into several other general courses, including English 1, 2 and 3, thus assuring that nearly every student attending the University will be made aware of the tremendous but heretofore ignored contribution of the black man to our society.

We assume that the sudden profusion of courses on black culture is partly due to pressure on the College of the Liberal Arts from Vice-President for Resident Instruction Paul M. Althouse and Vice President for Student Affairs Charles L. Lewis. Althouse and Lewis have been negotiating with members of the Douglas Association since last spring, when about 100 members of the black student organization confronted him with twelve demands for curriculum and admissions reform.

Members of the Douglas Association and the Administration have also been consulting individually with members of various departments, and the amount of cooperation they apparently received is gratifying. Courses on different aspects of black culture will be offered by the sociology, history, religion, political science and English departments. The experimental Liberal Arts 498 series will offer two courses this winter, one on Afro-American Literature in the 20th Century and one called The Negro in the American Experience.

Lewis, Althouse and the various

department heads and professors who cooperated in the effort to institute these courses should all be congratulated.

But there seems to be one important personage missing from the list of those to be commended — University President Eric A. Walker.

Since last spring's confrontation, Walker has maintained a mysterious and irritating silence on the entire issue of the role of the black student at the University. He has had ample opportunity to make known his opinions, but has chosen to remain silent (except for one article in the little-read Alumni News). Not once during his convocation speeches did he mention the struggle of the blacks for proper representation at Penn State. He chose instead to speak on "law and order," which may be interpreted as an indirect warning to the black students to avoid militancy.

He had a third opportunity to speak his mind on the issue at the most recent meeting of the Faculty Senate, but chose instead to confine his remarks to the budget.

To our knowledge, he has not taken part in any of the negotiations between the Douglas Association and Lewis and Althouse and has not shown any interest in doing so.

Walker is supposed to be the leader of this University, to make clear to the people of the state and nation the interest and policies of the University's Administration.

The problem of black representation at the University is perhaps the most important and potentially disruptive issue which has faced this University in many years, and we are sure that the students would be interested in Walker's opinions.



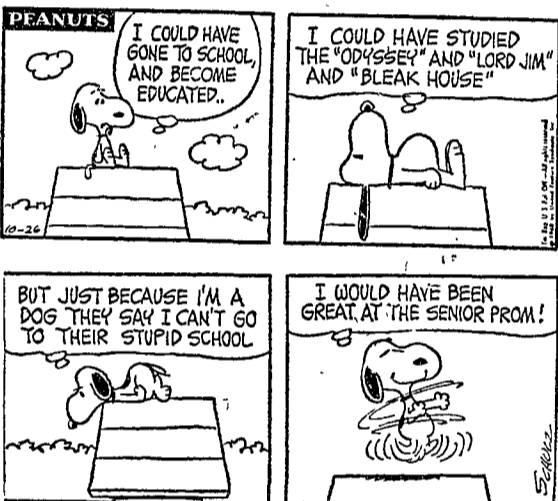
"... and neither the Pied Piper nor the children were ever heard from again."

Collegian Letter Policy

The Daily Collegian welcomes comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus or non-campus affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include name, term and major of the writer. They should be brought to the Collegian office, 29 Sackett, in person so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld by request. If letters are received by mail, Collegian will contact the signer for verification. The Collegian reserves the right to fairly select, edit and condense all letters.

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 typewritten and triple-spaced and should not exceed 75 lines in length. Interested faculty should bring their articles to Collegian office, 29 Sackett Building.



Letters to the Editor

Don't Condemn Apathy

TO THE EDITOR: For quite sometime we have read far too many articles condemning and castigating the "apathetic student" from all sides both student and faculty alike. But neither of the judgment-passers has offered any possible solution. Unfortunately these students do not need anymore anti-apathy literature.

Not until the "apathetic student" faces the realization and the truths of life can he ever hope to liberate himself from the habitual and forced act of "role playing". The student must seek himself through a personal involvement with life.

We must no longer condemn him; he is human, which is something many of us have forgotten; rather we must help him to find himself and be himself.

Until then your anti-apathy letters will be a waste of time and space. We don't need destructivism but we do need constructive ideas and attitudes.

David Stern
8th-English

Look at the Statistics

TO THE EDITOR: In recent years there has been a tremendous increase in literature concerning the extent and nature of poverty in the United States. The main speaker on this issue was John Kenneth Galbraith whose main ideas were 1) reduction of poverty had slowed, and 2) there are 40 to 50 million impoverished. He offered no evidence for his statements, evidently feeling one should be sufficiently impressed with his Harvard credentials and thus take his thesis on faith.

The facts are that in 1947, 28.9 percent of U.S. families fell below the \$3,000 poverty line. In 1966 the figure was 14 percent. This is no "slow up" in poverty reduction and includes 29 million, not 40 or 50 million. This figure is too high but percentage wise it is the smallest number to be so classified in any country at any time. But this concerns income, what of consumption statistics?

In 1930, 7 percent of U.S. families owned electric refrigerators, by 1960 it was 99 percent. Do millions lack equipment to cook needed food? Apparently not, for 99 percent of our families own automatic cooking equipment. Are the poor out of news, concerts, and entertainment? Unlikely, since over 95 percent own T.V. In 1966, 87.5 percent of poverty families owned cars. A telephone is not something you can "eat" or wear, yet in families with incomes under \$500 a year, and that's about as poor as you can get, 60 percent had telephones. Bureau of the Census statistics indicate the poor under 25 years of age bought more in one year than well-off Europeans buy in several. It appears the poor aren't as impoverished as has been said. But what of the Negro who is equated with poverty? Is his plight hopeless?

In 1947, non-white median income was \$1,614, now it is \$4,628. From 1960 to 1966 Negroes made more white collar progress than whites with professional, technical, and managerial advances of 13 percent to 11 percent for whites. Negro sales employment rose 48 percent while it was ten percent for whites. In 1950 only 2 percent of Negroes were "middle class"; in 1965 the figure was over 33 percent. These facts should generate hope, not despair. All wrongs aren't corrected immediately, but there has been good progress. Many have recognized this, and are responding with constructive self-help efforts, indicating a better future for our country's poor. Hopefully others will do the same.

John Cornelius
8th-English
Ted Kriner
7th-Business

Why Did Gregory Do It?

TO THE EDITOR: Last Saturday's visit by Presidential candidate, Dick Gregory, was both entertaining and informative. Gregory made some extremely valid and honest points about the "race problem" politics and what he termed as "the corrupt power system."

As dedicated as he may be, as concerned with the future as he is, Gregory still failed to propose any concrete steps to alleviate America's ills. He did propose some suggestions that were obviously impractical such as nation-wide boycotts.

My criticism of Gregory's performance does not lie in his impractical suggestions, however. It lies in his willingness to pull his campaign from the political box to the nightclub floor.

Gregory's humor was too often vulgar. At times, he debased the worthwhile ideas he has by using epithets and slogans that were plainly in bad taste. Gregory's statement that the "only difference between Humphrey and LBJ is that Humphrey's old lady is uglier" is an example.

Why does Gregory, who is running in opposition to Wallace, Nixon and Humphrey instead of against them, have to join the political club by using the tactic of name calling. It only debases him and what he stands for.

When using his wit to expose the absurdities of everyday life, Gregory is superb. When bitter irony becomes Gregory's tactic he is masterful. He bludgeons the hypocritical, the perverse, the corrupt. Why does he have to debase himself in the process?

Name Withheld by Request

What Is Artful Endeavor?

TO THE EDITOR: Bravo for G. C. Hines' letter (Oct. 23). It is about time that someone try to set the record straight as to what constitutes an artful endeavor and what, on the other hand, is the "critical choice" to appease an audience afflicted with extreme hauteur — spoon-fed and apathetic. Though "America Hurrah" may not have been severely censored elsewhere (and perhaps because it hasn't), the words of Jean Ohman's narrative "Paper Doll People" seem particularly applicable:

"How do you build a tomorrow on such a thin threatened today?"

Where values are vended like vegetables - Loveliness is a lipstick — or a lather... Culture is a Broadway play banned in Boston...

Marriage is a meal, a stopping-off-place, a namesake, a between-work-break...

James F. Webb
10th-Botany

Dear God, It's Sunday

TO THE EDITOR: As all Penn State students, I find myself eagerly anticipating TGIF Day and the accompanying release from academic tensions. However, as an East Halls resident, I have a great dread of DGIS Day (Dear God!! It's Sunday!!!). Another Sunday afternoon, complete with a Parking-Lot-80 gymkana.

This Sunday, as with most others, I was awakened by the melody of squealing tires, whining brakes, and screeching gears. Not only that, but the entire afternoon, while trying to make sense out of one of my textbooks, I was serenaded by Porsche's, M.G.'s, and the announcer's booming voice. I couldn't even escape by going to the FUB library, because the noise could still be heard there.

Is there any reason why from 10 to 7 on Sunday East Halls residents must be subjected to the thrills and excitement of the weekly gymkana? Since Sunday is the only day we don't have classes, some people prefer to sleep in, study, or relax all day. But how does one go about sleeping, studying, or relaxing with car tires and motors screeching and squealing for nine hours.

This comes complete with the announcer's voice (which must carry all the way to Bellefonte) telling the exact times and results of each lap. Since Penn State is an academic center, I think that a little peace and quiet would do the students a lot more good than listening to screeches for nine hours.

If some people need the thrills of a gymkana, why can't the parking lot of a shopping center be used, or at least some place away from campus so students can study or sleep? Make Sundays Day of Rest again.

Cathy Owens
9th-Business Administration

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1968

COCKROACHES

STAR PERFORMER — TOM SMYTH

WHEN? Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE? Assembly Rm. HUB

WHY? To entertain and enlighten

Science Student Council

Girls:

Want to Rush?

PAN-HEL SORORITY DAY

Sunday, Oct. 27 1:00 p.m. in the PUB

All girls who will be 2nd term or above with a 2.0 all-U by winter are eligible.

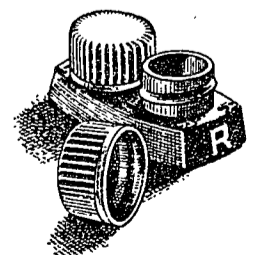
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