

Penn State Collegian

Published weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College in the interests of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the College.

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News Editor for This Issue.....G. W. SULLIVAN

WHY NOT FOR ALL TIME?

The announcement that final examinations would be omitted for this and next semester was hailed with delight by almost every student. The widespread pleasure that was evident on all sides as a result of that statement was certainly indicative of the general feeling towards "finals" and the long hours of almost perpetual strain that most students are forced to undergo in these periods.

Taking for granted that this would be the mood with which a student body would receive such a state of affairs, would it not indicate that the students, at least, would favor a permanent abolishment of all final examinations?

It might be well to state here, that for some time before the recent announcement was made concerning the omission of final examinations for this year, the COLLEGIAN had considered a reopening of its last year's campaign for a permanent abolition of final examinations for all students. All arrangements had been made for such an announcement in this, the first issue of the paper following vacation. Facts concerning both sides of the matter were to have been presented in this issue, and a ballot form printed in next week's paper, so arranged as to give each student a chance to voice his opinion in the matter, whether he favored the abolition, or not. Naturally, such a step is now unnecessary, and we will leave such a decision for future generations of classes, should the Council of Administration desire to revert to the abortive system of final examinations when conditions get back to normal.

The expression of student sentiment with regard to the recent announcement answers the question of their opinion in the matter that we originally proposed taking up at this time. We have heard no single objection to the fact that final examinations are to be eliminated this year. Comment has been to the exact contrary. We therefore feel that we are not very far from stating the truth when we say, that in a certain light, students in general would favor a permanent abolition of these time-wasting, nerve-racking "finals."

The main object in doing away with final examinations for this year is to gain the more than two weeks of time that would ordinarily be consumed in that manner, so that college might close earlier and the country be benefited thereby. Now, under normal conditions could not the final examinations be omitted and the students benefited? There are too many students who are inclined to "loaf along" during an entire semester, reviewing their subjects for quizzes and final examinations, and some of them ready to resort to any means to "get by" with their work. All this results in a poor foundation of learning in all of this man's subjects, and while he may pass the final examinations with even fairly good marks, the knowledge so hastily attained soon leaves him, and he gains very little from his college course. Therein lies a chief weakness in the final examination system.

On the other hand, with no final examinations expected, the student finds that he must apply himself to his studies daily; that he must keep up with his classmates in every lesson; that there will be no chance to "loaf" for a final through which he might pass the course; that short quizzes would be expected at more frequent intervals; that by his enforced application to his studies he would really learn the things that he came to college to learn; that he would feel when he graduated that he had actually earned his diploma and be proud of the degree conferred upon him, and finally, that he could feel that his knowledge was there to stay, to serve him, his associates and his country.

Therefore, does it not seem wise to permanently abolish all final examinations, even under normal conditions, when it would naturally be supposed that if a student were below the required grade at the end of a semester, he would be granted the privilege of a short examination, such as is being arranged for under present conditions? And further, would it not be better to use those two wasted weeks in each college year for further instruction in class work, or in a thorough review of all work covered during a semester? We trust that the Council of Administration will give this matter grave consideration when the college work eventually returns to a normal basis.

THE COACHING SYSTEM

The bringing back into actual practice of the elements of a distinctive Penn State football system that caused the Blue and White teams to flourish in former days, constitutes one of the most pleasing features of the decision by the Alumni Athletic Advisory Committee to engage only graduate coaches for the next three years. The success met by other colleges and universities in eventually coming back to this system leads us to believe that its final and absolute institution at Penn State will lead to a more satisfactory state of affairs than has existed in gridiron circles here for some time past.

Introduced largely from the outside, and worked up to a state of high perfection by capable inside assistance, this Penn State style of play was distinctively a Penn State method and gained a reputation as such. But with the introduction of the "one year rule" it was deemed advisable to attempt an improvement by an injection of new blood to overcome the handicap. As a result, things took a different turn and while many good features were brought into play by the change, many were lost from the old system. By the selection of Harlow as head coach it is proposed to retrieve the discarded fragments and attempt a return to that distinctive style with which he is thoroughly acquainted. The alumni committee has placed full confidence in Harlow and the system; this is shown not only in the fact that it has asked him to take charge for three years, but also that his assistants will be chosen from former Penn State players who were of material aid in establishing that system. The step is in keeping with the idea now being advanced for the continuation of intercollegiate sports during the war; the committee acted slowly and wisely in making its final decision, seeking the advice of former players and well known coaches in the matter, and we of the student body can well afford to feel that their mature judgment is to be given precedence.

To those who for various reasons might be inclined to favor the dual system of coaching as followed in the past two years in the introduction of an outside field coach, it necessarily remains that winning teams were not produced. The new plays, new signals and new tactics of these coaches were used in an attempt to better the style of play. Naturally their work received first consideration, and the Penn State system was entirely lost, especially during the past season. This was considered a marked defect by the alumni committee, as evidenced in their recent statement. With his new ideas, the field coach was practically in charge of the entire team, and it is the bringing of this responsibility under one head that in a way makes the change in the

coaching one that undoubtedly is for the best. At its best, football coaching in any college next year will be far from consisting of a bed of roses, and with any fairly suitable material on hand in the fall we look to Coach Harlow to "come through" with a good showing. Next year of all years will be most difficult, but we count on the reversion to the distinctive Penn State system to materially aid in making the best showing possible.

HAS PENN STATE QUIT?

Last Saturday evening in the Armory, the 'varsity basketball team played a game with the Ambulance Unit for the benefit of the Red Cross. From the size of the attendance at the game, one would judge that very few of the students knew that there was to be a game. There were approximately 125 paid admissions, and not all of those were by members of the student body.

Perhaps the game was not fully advertised, coming so soon after the Christmas holidays, and this may have tended to keep the attendance figures low. Yet even allowing this as a possible excuse, we are sorely afraid that it made but little difference. When Penn State fails to support its athletic teams, one is prone to ask the question "Has Penn State quit?"

The highest authorities in the War Department and in the national government have expressed a desire for the continuation of athletics even during the war, and Penn State has been endeavoring to do its share in this respect. Yet without student support, these efforts must necessarily fail; and as a result, we will have to admit that we could not rise to the situation. No doubt there is a great amount of restlessness among the students, but why should this interfere with their support of an athletic team?

Nor can the financial side of the argument be advanced for non-attendance. The cost of a ticket for Saturday's game was twenty cents—the cost of a ticket to the movies was fifteen cents—and yet the movies were both crowded while the men who are fighting for Penn State on the basketball team were forced to play before a slim turnout of faithful rooters. Moreover, the proceeds of the game were turned over to the Red Cross, to aid that worthy cause.

This Saturday night, there will be a double attraction in basketball. The 'varsity will play Lehigh and the Freshman team will tackle Bethlehem Prep. Both games should prove hard ones for the Penn State teams and they will need all the support that they can get. So let the Penn State student body show that it has not quit and moreover, that it WILL NOT quit!

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The recent action of the Council of Administration with regard to shortening the college year, is an excellent idea in our opinion, and is in keeping with the nation wide movement in saving. The shortage of labor in all industries is a well-known fact, and even the four months which the students can devote during the coming summer, will be of inestimable value. A saving can not easily be effected at Penn State in any of the lines which are attracting the greatest amount of attention in the present conservation movement, but the time saving as well as the work that will be accomplished during the summer should prove to be of some avail.

The entire student body should not lose sight of the primary reason that actuated the officials in deciding on this change, namely that of helping the country as much as possible and in as many ways as possible. With this in mind, we feel sure that each student will take upon himself the responsibility of "doing his bit" by helping to accomplish as much work during the coming semester as would result under normal conditions, or even more if at all possible. To this end, all distracting events that would tend to have a detrimental effect on the scholastic work, should be eliminated. All "cutting" of classes should be reduced to a minimum, and should only be resorted to in case of absolute necessity. We feel sure that every Penn State man will do his bit and help in every way to accomplish the purpose of the change.

SOCCER TEAM WINS CLOSE GAME FROM SWARTHMORE

The annual Christmas eastern trip taken by the Penn State soccer team proved to be a disappointment to the players, due to the cancellations by Lafayette and Lehigh. The former game was canceled after the team had already left for Swarthmore to play the first game of the trip. The result of this game was a 2 to 1 victory for the Blue and White.

The game was played at Swarthmore on a field covered with several inches of frozen snow, which proved a severe handicap to both teams. Both teams gave only mediocre exhibitions due to the excessive cold and to the lack of practice. At times, the Penn State forward line had carried the ball down the field, while at other times there was a woeful lack of teamwork.

In the first half, the ball was constantly in Swarthmore territory, although Penn State could score but one goal. This was made by Capt. after the State forward line had carried the ball down the field. Shortly after the start of the second half, Cattanch registered the second goal on a corner kick which the Swarthmore goal keeper allowed to slip by him. Swarthmore scored soon after, and then the game was devoid of further features. Reg. the trip, Amer. '18, was elected captain. Penn State's line-up:

Goal, Amer.; fullback, Hamman and Webster; halfbacks, Matner, Lucas and Starkey; outside left, Cattanch; inside left, Capt.; center, Mearkle; outside right, McFadden; outside right, Vogel.

AG. SCHOOL GIVES COURSE IN ENGINES FOR FARMERS

Realizing that under present conditions mechanics of the engine are never before by the farmers of the state, the School of Agriculture has begun a special series of courses in gas engines and tractors. This course will be open to any farmer or citizen of Pennsylvania who is actually operating or assisting in the operation of one of these modern power devices. The course is one week in length. The first one started last Monday morning and will continue until Saturday night following that time the courses will be offered every week, beginning on Monday and ending on Saturday, for as long as the attendance justifies. Each course will be limited to twenty men. The only necessary expense to persons taking the course will be their railroad fare to and from State College and the board and room while here. This should make it possible for a large number to attend.

The course will cover everything necessary to a thorough knowledge of the operation and principles of construction of gas engines. The time will be devoted about equally between theory and operation and every man who attends will receive instructions by competent men of the proper and efficient way of operating this most necessary device for the farm.

DARTMOUTH'S WINTER CARNIVAL

The Dartmouth Outing Club has extended an invitation to Penn State to compete in the eighth annual winter carnival to be held at Hanover, N. H., on February 14, 15, and 16. Social features will not be lacking, although emphasis is being placed on the outdoor events. Prizes are to be awarded in the ski and snowshoe dashes and obstacle races, in the ski cross-country race and in ski jumping and jumping.

LAST YEAR'S SENIORS OUT IN THE WORLD

- Allen, H. F., Wilkesburg, Pa.
- Bachman, L. C., Erie, Pa.
- Baker, W. L., Company D, 30th Engineers, American Unit, Washington, D. C.
- Bannen, P. C., South Williamsport, Pa.
- Barr, H. A., Hammond, Ind.
- Bechtel, F. C., Germantown, Pa.
- Bohn, R. A., Norfolk, Va.
- Boyles, R. C., Steglton, Pa.
- Bradbury, R. C., Jarrettsville, Pa.
- Bright, F. G., Northumberland, Pa.
- Brosius, W. G., Sunbury, Pa.
- Bueck, E. R., Altoona, Pa.
- Miller, C. L., 2nd Lieut. C. A. C. to France as Aide, Peshawar, Staff, India.
- Miller, C. R., Cadet Engineer, The New York Edison Co., New York City.
- Miller, E. D., McKeesport, Pa.
- Miller, G. W., Lieutenant Camp Custer, Mich.
- Miller H. E., Chemist, West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co., Covington, W. Va.
- Miller, R. W., 2nd Lieut., 50th U. S. Inf., Camp Green, Charlotte, N. C.
- Miller, W. R., Civil Engineering work, Public Service Gas Co., Jersey City, N. J.
- Minnich, G. C., Toledo, Ohio.
- Mitchell, E. T., Agent, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Brockton, Mass.
- Moek, H. S. D., Student in School of Medicine, Pittsburgh University, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Montgomery, W. H., Draftsman, Office of Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.
- Moore, G. H., Jr., Draftsman, Arthur G. McKee & Co., Cleveland, Ohio.
- Moore, Russell, Inspector of Ordnance U. S. Government, Buffalo, N. Y.
- Morgan, A. R., Research Fellow, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.
- Morgan, G. D., 27th Reg. of Engineers, Camp Meade.
- Morris, G. C., Drafted, Newberry, Pa.
- Morris, W. K., Drafted.
- Mullen, John, 2nd, Ordnance Penn State College.
- Murphy, C. F., Assistant Instructor in Botany, Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing, Mich.
- Musser, H. B., Scientific Asst. Grain Standardization, Office Grain Standardization, U. S. Government, Washington, D. C.
- Nagle, J. E. A., Easton, Pa.
- Nellenbogen, A. H., Chemist, Republic Rubber Co., Youngstown, Ohio.
- Ness, H. N., 2nd Lieut. Inf. U. S. R., 110th Regt. H. F. A., Camp McClellan, Ala.
- Nicholls, C. R., Chemist, Atlas Powder Co., Tamaqua, Pa.
- Nielson, S. O., Drafted, Westville, N. J.
- Niekla, J. W., Planner in Production Dept., Automatic Electric Co., Chicago, Ill.
- Niesley, H. G., County Agent, Dauphin County, Harrisburg, Pa.
- North, T. P., Science Teacher, Brookville Schools, Brookville, Pa.
- Nyer, W. D., Weatherly, Pa.
- Ober, B. H., New Enterprise, Pa.
- Oberle, J. S., Lafayette Hill, Pa.
- O'Brien, J. A., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
- Ostermayer, R. W., Chemist, E. I. Du-

Looking Backward

WEEK OF JANUARY 9

Five Years Ago
The soccer trip was successful, Penn State winning two of the games and tying the third.
The Seventeenth Annual Farmers' Week was voted by all who attended during the holidays, to have been the most successful of those yet held.
Penn State's basketball team, with two old men playing, was preparing to start the season by meeting the Pittsburgh Collegians.

Fifteen Years Ago
In the latter part of December the college was honored by a visit from Governor Stone and some forty members of the state legislature. The party inspected the various departments of the college and reviewed the cadet battalion.

Twenty Years Ago
The basketball schedule for the season was announced. It contained games with Bucknell, Cornell, and University of Pennsylvania.

CHANGES IN THE FACULTY
J. Norman Whitney, of Alfred University, N. Y., and Ordean Rockey, teaching until recently in the Harrisburg Public Schools, have been secured as instructors in the English Department.

Professor J. W. Pearce has been secured as assistant Professor of Education. Mr. Pearce was formerly at the University of Maine.

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Engineering News

- Pont de Nemours Co. Eastern Laboratory, Chester, Pa.
- Ober, Frank, Jr., 2nd Lieut. P. A., 310 Reg., Camp Meade, Md.
- Overfield, Frank, Head Math Dept., Albany High School, Albany, Ore.
- Owens, J. S., Asst. in Experimental Astronomy, The Pennsylvania State College.
- Page, S. E., 3rd R. O. T. C., Camp Dix.
- Page, Silas, Pittsburgh, Pa. Awaiting Call to Aviation Corps.
- Painter, H. C., Base Hospital 27, American Expeditionary Force via New York.
- Painter, S. C., R. F. D. 3, Kuttanning, Pa.
- Patrick, J. C., Industrial Chemist, West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co., Luke, Md.
- Pattee, Miss Sara L., State College, Pa.
- Patterson, C. B., Assistant Engineer, Hercules Powder Co., Kenil, N. J.
- Peck, G. B., Hires Condensed Milk Co., State Hill, N. J.
- Peterson, Harry, Wilkes Barre, Pa.
- Peterson, W. O., Allport, Pa.
- Popp, H. W., in charge of Biological Science Dept., Central State Normal School, Lock Haven, Pa.
- Potter, J. E., Director of Agriculture in High School, Coudersport, Pa.
- Pries, J. F., Managing home farm, Glen Mills, Pa.
- Pries, W. N., Manufacturing Chemist, Hires Condensed Milk Co., Unionville, N. Y.
- Quintin, Miss L. A., Teacher in Millcreek High School, R. 1 D 2, Erie, Pa.

DR. ANDERSON ATTENDS MEETING

Dr. A. E. Anderson was in Pittsburgh the early part of last week at the meeting of the American Association of Political and Social Science.

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Professor Norman C. Miller of the Engineering Extension Department has been released for a few months to organize the educational work for the Chester Shipbuilding Co. C. C. C. G. whose headquarters have been in Philadelphia will devote part of his time to the office at the College.
Professor C. L. Kinzie will represent the College at a Conference in Washington January 11th called by the Federal Bureau of Vocational Education to consider other needs of the government for skilled men such as electrical, mechanical, and civil engineers, mechanics and electricians.
Classes similar to the Ordnance and Signal Corps will probably be organized under the instructions of the War Department.

AT HISTORICAL CONVENTION

Dr. G. T. Zook, Dr. A. E. Martin, Dr. P. T. Boucke, Dr. Jacob Tanager, Dr. C. Church, Mr. C. H. Chase, and Mr. J. V. McCullough attended the meeting of the American Historical Society held in Philadelphia during the holidays.

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