

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Tuesday Morning, November 5, 1940

EDITOR'S NOTE—All of the editors who have served Collegian in the last 15 years have been invited to write the editorial they would most like to address to Penn State students today. Not all of them have responded. The editorials of those who have are being published in this column from time to time.

By CHARLES A. MYERS
Department of Economics, M.I.T.

Looking back six years, the impression is fairly clear that the frills of college were often more important in undergraduate life than were the basic purposes for which colleges exist. Although there may be some dispute as to what these purposes really are, at least one is to further the development of the student's mind by either a thorough grounding in the liberal arts or a rigorous training in the technical subjects.

Yet the hours were crowded with pursuits other than these. The best movies came on Mondays and Tuesdays, and frequently were not missed. The daily hour in this Corner became a part of the curriculum for many. Extra-curricular activities (including the Collegian) often involved more time than the whole set of classes and their preparation. Some of these activities may have been "character building" or may have aided in the development of some special ability, but many could not be characterized so favorably. Then there were sports events, dances, and other social functions so numerous that scarcely a week-end was unfilled. With all these, plus innumerable student meetings of all sorts, it was frequently an effort to get sufficient time for courses which had challenged one's interest.

There were exceptions, it is true. Some students, frequently in the technical courses and often non-fraternity men, could not enjoy "college life" because they were seriously about the business of preparing themselves to earn a living and usually earning a good part of it while at college. But these, in retrospect, were the shadows of the picture, not the highlights.

We are now told that today's college generation is more serious, more concerned with the problems of this democracy and its future in a war-ridden world than were its predecessors. Six years out of Penn State, spent in and around five other colleges and universities, have confirmed the general truth of this statement.

Certainly, such a change was to be desired. With present-day events raising searching questions, the answers to which few men know simple answers, it is imperative that students fortunate enough to be in college devote more of their time to an attempt at understanding these events and issues. The war has overshadowed all else, but there are pressing domestic problems, as well.

At Penn State, there are good teachers in all departments whose fund of knowledge and understanding is seldom exploited to the full by those who pay good money to qualify for a diploma. Surely, in a democracy, where the colleges hope to furnish capable leaders for tomorrow's more difficult world, it is criminal neglect to devote one's time largely to the frills.



LION TALES

Just so I won't disappoint my mother and the Kappas who read this column because there is always one of them mentioned in it, I might as well start this off and in my own clever way observe that houseparty is over and the only things left on our feeble minds are the election and the fast approaching black letter day when we get our below grades. I haven't decided which is worse, quietly thinking of that bluebook I flunked or getting a good dose of politics administered by Bynard Bloom and Frank Kingdon over a cup of coffee in the Sandwich Shop.

Coeds Did All Right

It seems rather late to begin to rehash the weekend, but it seems the only way to give you folks what you want, namely, a gander at your name in print. But before I wade into the pile of matchbox covers, etc. on which I jotted down names this week-end, I'd like to make an observation about the coeds. In spite of their beefing and snorting in the editorial columns of Friday's paper, they seem to have done nobly by themselves. As far as I could discover, Dean Ray's girls outnumbered the dreaded imports. Either the local talent is improving or Penn State men aren't so particular as they were. In a way this is a major calamity for Vera Kemp and her cohorts. What will the women's staff do for editorial matter before big week-ends if the girls have no imports to gripe about?

And now about the week-end. Did you know that Bill Fowler, lucky dog, sat Sunday morning in the Diner and beamed while two Kappa Sig imports knocked themselves out arguing over whether he was cute or not? They couldn't reach a decision. Speaking of Kappa Sigs, they tell me that those boys together with the Sigma Pis, the Delta Chis, the Pi Kappa Phis and a couple of other houses were the worst offenders this week-end as far as importing is concerned, while the Sigma Nus, Phi Deltas, and SAE gave the coeds a break and split half-an-half. The girls tell me that Phi Psi was the house that really appreciated coed talent.

We were really beginning to worry about the plight of the University of Michigan, where the only key to the lost and found office was lost, when we were jolted by a report on some eye tests at the University of Washington, where it was learned one-fourth of the coeds are incapable of winking.

Letters to the Editor—

Absentee Voting Long Time Away

To the Editor:
Perhaps this will dash a lot of buoyant hopes among the thousands of college students looking to the day soon when they will not be deprived of their constitutional privilege to vote because of the lack of an absentee-voting system in Pennsylvania.

But before the Collegian's fine campaign to obtain such a system is successful in uncovering any more demagogues presently seeking to gain or regain seats in the State Legislature, it might be proper to point out the fact that there is absolutely no chance of getting an absentee-voting system here before the 1944 election, if then.

Yes, I said 1944—four long years from now.

And, briefly, here's why:

After the 1937 State Legislature—a Democratic-controlled Legislature under Democratic Gov. George H. Earle—had passed a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to legalize absentee voting, the proposal was killed when it came up for the required second vote in 1939 by the Senate Judiciary General Committee—a Republican-controlled committee under Republican Gov. Arthur H. James.

The chairman of that committee was Charles R. Mallery, of Hollidaysburg, who claimed at that time that he voted against the proposal on the thesis that the people should not be given the privilege to vote on anything he personally opposed!

As a result, before any system of absentee voting can be legalized in Pennsylvania, it must be approved again by two successive general sessions of the State Legislature and by the electorate at a subsequent general election.

In other words, the proposal must be re-introduced in both houses of the State Legislature at the general sessions in 1941 and 1943 before it can even be submitted to the people for their action. The earliest that could come would be November 1943, and the system of absentee voting, if approved, could not be placed into actual effect until the following election in 1944.

John A. Troanovitch '39

Ferguson Corrects Misapprehension

To the Editor:
The quotations attributed to me in last Saturday's Collegian gave the impression that I endorsed Wendell Willkie for president. Since I had no intention of doing so, I write to correct that misap-

prehension.

One's conclusion in the present contest depends upon his analysis of both foreign and domestic issues. To some our relation to the war in Europe is controlling, to others, domestic policies.

If one believes Hitler and Japan to be a serious threat to American security and that England should be aided at all costs, then I should think Roosevelt the better choice. This implies, however, a willingness to be drawn into the war in Europe whenever it becomes apparent that England will certainly be defeated. If, on the other hand, one is determined to become involved only if and when Hitler and Japan have succeeded in their diabolical designs and the Western Hemisphere is in imminent threat of invasion, it seems to me that a change of administrations would be more likely to insure that policy.

Concerning domestic issues, if one believes our private economy to be incapable of functioning in such a way as to benefit the masses without continuous governmental control and stimulation; if one believes the social welfare legislation of the past few years should be retained without emasculating amendments, then Roosevelt would appear to be the better choice. Nothing is more certain than that the reactionary business and financial interests now praying for a Willkie victory will attempt to curtail much of the regulatory and humanitarian activity of the Roosevelt administration. If on the other hand, one still has faith in private economy and the ability of business and financial leaders to improve the general welfare, then Willkie is the obvious choice.

If you, like I, are one of those unfortunates who disagrees with the President on foreign policy but agrees with much of his domestic program you will need to choose one of two evils, or vote for Norman Thomas.

John H. Ferguson,
Political Science Dept.

Giragosian Opposes Kingdon's Statement

To The Editor:
In this morning's issue of "The Daily Collegian," Mr. Frank Kingdon asserted that he defied anybody to find any written or spoken words of Thomas Jefferson or George Washington in opposition to a third term. I have clippings from the "Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph" for November 1, 1940, which clearly refutes Mr. Kingdon's rash statement.

Newman Giragosian '44
Editor's Note:—The clippings are in the Collegian office for any interested persons to see.

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