

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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The Third Semester

Thousands of Penn State students are chanting a never-ending question which drums into a full-voiced shout. It says, "What about the proposed third semester?"

Not only this query, but other questions are being hurled by inquisitive students who feel that the College has thrown its schedule into a fast-moving calendar, a maelstrom of events, which has brought forth many puzzling and unanswered questions.

The College administration is on the spot. It is pressed on one side by demanding students and on the other by a war-conscious government. It is confronted with throwing its resources in the hands of the nation, financially hurting its student enrollment, and without any promise of the government's material aid.

Why the College has not announced its plans seems to answer itself. Either the administration does not want to be caught short with a half-baked plan, has not determined its course of action as yet, or it is working on tentative plans which are not advanced far enough for publication.

The College is faced with a thousand and one problems which go a thousand and one ways. But students still say, "What about the third semester?"

We can only guess, but we have a few well-founded facts on our side and they point toward the same direction. These facts may partly excuse the administration for its silence on the proposed third semester.

First, the College is not positive that a third semester is the best step. It has attempted to get federal financial backing, but so far all that it has received is a definite urge by the war department to speed up its educational program. In other words, the national government has taken the stand to date that all colleges and universities should speed up their curricula but offers no solutions as to how it can be done. "This is war, isn't it?" is its reply to inquiries on how the program can be hurried. It wants the result and doesn't care how it is done.

The College is faced with this: (1) Needy students cannot return to College immediately; (2) Faculty members probably would have to be paid ten months salary for 12 months work; (3) A third semester may upset present College schedules; (4) There seems to be no offer of financial assistance by either federal or state governments as yet; (5) An increase in faculty instruction but decrease in student enrollment appears probable; (6) The problem of inserting high school graduates as freshmen into the College calendar is difficult; (7) Fraternities will lose members.

Despite these disadvantages, we believe the College will be forced to announce a third semester which probably would begin about May 15. The nation does not care whether financially embarrassed students can return to school or not. It can use these men in its armed forces. What the war department is concerned about is that engineers are hurriedly thrown into munitions jobs, mineral industry students are put to work in metallurgical fields, and that it gets technical students in the fastest time possible.

The College, it seems, has no other alternative. But, it does not want to make the mistake that Yale, Harvard, and Princeton have made, that of announcing a third semester with no plans, no answers to many problems which were created by hurried legislature.

The College wants to have an answer, and a good one. When it makes its decision, it wants the decision to be a well-established one, backed by substantial research and study. It will inconvenience many students, spell the collegiate disaffection of many, but at least the administration will propose a sound plan.

A Worm's Eye View . . .



Life Goes To A Party

Measuring worm Ferdy was greener than ever when I saw him yesterday, probably because he had just taken a bath in a mud puddle on College avenue, and was sitting on the curb in the sunshine to dry himself.

"What goes on?" I asked. "I'm preparing," he said, "for a party—for the biggest measuring worm feast since the period preceding the invention of the yardstick."

"I didn't know measuring worms went to parties," I said, as Ferdy buffed his nails.

"Every time there's a war among the world's beasts, there's a party," he said. "And all the animals of the earth are about to engage in the greatest tiff of the centuries. For once again the cattle shall be heard, and the moos that echo around the earth shall stifle the bray of the asses. And the goats shall stand on their hind legs, like soap-box orators in baggy pants, to give three last, lusty cheers before the cattle overcome them."

"And when the coconuts drop in a gentlemanly fashion, nitting the mothers and babies first, the broad-winged eagle shall fall from his perch; the owl shall scream once and be silent; the wild beasts shall scuttle to underground shelters beneath the rocks; and the domestic beasts shall roll over and gush forth, thus providing the feast of the centuries."

Cat Meets Canine

"What started this war in the animal kingdom?" I asked, taken aback by Ferdy's seriousness, which seemed a little ridiculous for such a very green and very tiny worm.

"Two dogs were arguing over a bone and a cat interfered," he said, standing up and adjusting his new bow tie. "My Aunt Phoebe will go for this. She's a buxom lass. The trouble is that she can't see any farther than her nose. She doesn't realize that after this feast, there will be nothing left for the worms."

"When is the party coming off?" I asked.

"Soon. Pretty soon. Preparations are always begun away in advance. In the meantime, now that I'm dressed, I think I'll go to my Aunt Phoebe's wedding. It took her two centuries to hook the guy she's going to marry. I can't understand what she sees in him—always has colds and goes around sniffing all the time. But as I say, she's a buxom lass. She finally convinced him that he'd get rid of his colds if he married her because she'd keep him out of the draught."

And Ferdy wiggled past me down Senior Walk.

—PIX



"And . . . we had dinner at The Corner!"

Varsity Debate Candidates Called

A call for candidates for the varsity debate team has been issued according to an announcement made by Thomas J. Burke '42, debate manager, yesterday.

Any senior, junior, or sophomore wishing to compete for a berth on the squad should report to 316 Sparks next Tuesday evening. Candidates should have prepared a five minute speech on either the affirmative or the negative side of the question, "Resolved that the federal government should regulate by law all labor unions in the United States, constitutionality conceded."

The debate team at present is preparing for a symposium forum with debaters from Lock Haven State Teachers College and Juniata College on February 12. The subject will be, "What are the Qualities that Make a Good Conversationalist?"

Fagan To Speak

F. N. Fagan, professor of pomology, will make two addresses this month before meetings of the New York State Horticultural society. His topics will be "Can We Increase the Consumption of Apples in Nearby Cities?" and "How to Grow and Sell Fruit Profitably."

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY
Freshman Mixer, Armory, 8:30 p. m. Bring AA books.
Ice Skating, College rink, 7 to 10 p. m.

Newman Club initiation, Theta Kappa Phi, 8:30 p. m.
PSCA World Problems Committee, Hugh Beaver Room, 4 p. m.
PSCA Laurelton State Village Committee, 304 Old Main, 4 p. m.

TOMORROW
Boxing meet with Western Maryland, Rec Hall, 7 p. m.
Wrestling meet with Navy, Rec Hall, 8:30 p. m.
Ice Skating, College rink, 2 to 5 and 7 to 10 p. m.
Victory book campaign ends. Leave books at public schools, Co-op Corner, Library, or Student Union.

Snow Law Clarified

Burgess Albert E. Yougel has requested the story in Wednesday's Collegian concerning the clearing of walks following a snowfall be altered. The clarification requests all fraternity presidents and rooming house owners to clear their walks within 12 hours after the snow has ceased falling, rather than within 24 hours.



ENEMY SIGHTED ABOVE

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