

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

Established 1940. Successor to the Penn State Collegian, established 1904, and the Free Lance, established 1837. Published daily except Sunday and Monday during the regular college year by the students of The Pennsylvania State College. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the Post-office at State College, Pa., under the act of March 8, 1879.

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Friday, July 31, 1942



Through The Needle's Eye

Last semester a couple of guys got an idea. "This College needs to know that there is a war going on," they said. "This Summer semester is going to be a tough baby to handle. Kids are going to be tired and lethargic at Penn State. Let's fix up something that will let them know there is a war going on; let's start something that will let steam off."

The idea grew a little bit, then a little bit more, and today you can buy a stake in that idea for \$4.40 at the AA ticket windows in Old Main.

It was pretty hard to get the idea going at first. Campus organizations couldn't see beyond their own publicity; but then a few others began to get the idea, and all the latent strength and tremendous ability on the Penn State campus began to flow in one direction: student leaders began to feel the power of the democratic process; student followers said: "We'll work, because we've got a stake in the army, in victory, in Victory Weekend." And tomorrow afternoon the students of Penn State through the efforts of some twenty-seven campus groups will give the Army of this nation thousands of dollars for the army, for victory, from Victory Weekend, from themselves.

The deans of the College have said students must come out of the clouds of activities and get down to work for their country. Dean Steidle allowed himself to be quoted condemning extra-curricular activities. We can't agree with some of his points. It seems to us that the heavy crop of below-grades cannot be attributed to activities, when there is as much going on in a regular semester as we've had this Summer.

But we do think that Dean Steidle is also right. We think he's a sharp guy who knows what kind of a job the country has to do, what kind of job Penn State has to do. The problem is pretty clear it seems to us: just as the strength and energy of Penn State poured into Victory Weekend once the idea was explained, once the students felt their stake in the idea, so will the strength and energy of Penn State rush to do the work of the school if the idea is made understandable.

Maybe Victory Weekend will help. At least it's a more pleasant way of making the idea clear than, say, taking the students to visit the mothers of soldiers killed in action or through an army hospital. If students will get the idea—that this is their war—they'll put below-grades out of existence. Their democratic stomachs won't stand them.

—GABRIEL

Campus Calendar

TODAY

Fred Waring Broadcast, transmitted by loudspeaker in front of Old Main, 7 p. m.

Thespian-Glee Club Revue, Schwab Auditorium, 8 p. m.

Dancing to Benny Goodman, Rec Hall, 10 p. m. to 2 a. m.

Crowning of Victory Girl by Goodman at midnight intermission.

TOMORROW AFTERNOON

Frosh-Soph tug-of-war, followed by coed tug-of-war, New Beaver Field, 2 o'clock.

Parade and drill by Pershing Rifles and State College Drum and Bugle Corps, New Beaver Field, 2:30 o'clock.

Presentation of V-Weekend proceeds to Colonel Taylor, Army Relief fund representative, and presentation of fraternity lawn display award, New Beaver Field, 3 o'clock.

Varsity baseball, Cornell, New Beaver Field diamond, 3:30 o'clock.

Varsity golf, Cornell, College golf course, 3:30 o'clock.

Varsity tennis, Cornell, varsity courts, 2 o'clock.

TOMORROW EVENING

Thespian-Glee Club Revue, Schwab Auditorium, 7 o'clock.

Dance-a-poppin', with four campus bands, Rec Hall, 9 o'clock until midnight.

Revamping Advisor System

By pledging its support of a proposal to revamp the College's advisory system, All-College Cabinet has initiated action that should have been considered several years ago.

Hundreds of students will admit that they only see their advisor on the Monday before registration, and then it is only a matter of form. After all, what good is an advisor if he does nothing but check a student's schedule to determine if sufficient credits have been included to permit graduation at the end of four years.

To say that the advisors in every School are lax in their duties would be slightly unfair. We will admit that the system employed by the Schools of Mineral Industries and Agriculture are more commendable than the ones existing in the other five Schools.

Because of Penn State's large enrollment, a competent advisory system is practically imperative. Smaller colleges are not faced with the problem because each instructor has plenty of time to devote to individual students. But this is not a small college, and it is not unusual for a student to spend an entire semester in a lecturing class, and still not know the name of the instructor.

The size of Penn State demands that the College be conducted on an impersonal basis—a situation which can be partly remedied by assigning each student to at least one competent advisor.

An Interesting Footnote

In a college town whose history book is illustrated with full-color plates of students casually and foolishly ripping up thousands of dollars of parking meters, and burgesses just as casually and foolishly fining students for minor infractions of the law, Burgess Albert E. Yougel's declaration of Victory Weekend as a borough holiday makes an interesting footnote.

Just as it is satisfying and even thrilling to see the concerted effort of Penn State students in a timely and American activity such as V-Weekend, it is gratifying to see the traditional friction between borough and College melt away before the impact of a cause bigger than either. The Flag of the United States will wave throughout State College this weekend as they say for the townspeople: "America, we love and salute you. Penn State students we join you in your effort to help America."

Victory Weekend will be gone on Monday, just a paragraph in the borough history book. Whether or not the blank pages will be filled with more anecdotes of student-borough strife will be a question for the future. It will seem more like Penn State, more like the spirit evidenced in Victory Weekend, if the unmarked pages will record the student-borough cooperation.

—B. M. W.

A Nod Of Approval


When student originality and ability is coupled with faculty guidance and energy, The Daily Collegian is anxious to take some space to say: "Good work!" on behalf of the student body. Today the editors are just as anxious to recognize the efforts of one of The Daily Collegian's own.

Sunday night will see the curtain rise in the Little Theatre as some of the best actors on campus bring to life an original play, "Ephrata." Several months ago Frank Neusbaum of the dramatics staff asked Kathryn Popp '43, assistant women's editor of The Daily Collegian, to work on a one-act play of historical Pennsylvania.

The closing curtain Sunday night will tell whether Katie Popp's original script did justice to Frank Neusbaum's idea and historical research. We just want to give a nod of approval to the idea of such student-faculty cooperation in creative originality.

—B. M. W.

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