

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday Morning, December 11, 1942

CLEVER COMMENTS

By Fred E. Clever

It really happened, and it took a Penn State man to do it.

For weeks the favorite butt of jokes emanating from bureaucratic Washington has been the Army's new 43-acre hexagon building in the nation's capitol. Stories of a "lost safari," "weekly patrols in the corridors," and ridiculous accounts of personnel carrying field rations to eat during long enforced stays in the gigantic structure, have been told and retold.

Tuesday, between sessions with Washington's Army and Navy big-wigs, hometown-boy-makes-good Bob McNabb captured the guffaws by getting lost in the hexagon.

A fitting climax to the incident had a comely female messenger taking our boy by the hand and leading him to the nearest exit.

Journalism Dilemma

Those long faces you see attached to worn-out looking frames that hobble around campus these days are not necessarily soon-to-be-drafted students. They may be Paul Woodland, editor, and Phil Mitchell, business manager, disillusioned "bosses" of this newspaper.

Just when it looked as though Penn State was going to have a daily newspaper again next year, the Board of Trustees vetoed the one measure that would help make a daily certain.

With vital information coming from Washington every day concerning the college student and the war, we have been wondering what means the administration would use to inform students of latest War Department decisions if the Collegian were to go back on the weekly basis.

Perhaps the College can place in everybody's schedule next semester a daily hour conference to be held in Rec Hall. There an administration member can read the latest communiques. Ridiculous, isn't it?

A Difference Of Opinion

Recently there have been indications that a difference of opinion exists between our nation's educators and the top men of our Army.

It seems that the educators prefer the status quo—that is, they believe they have the ideal solution to the student-soldier problem.

"We'll keep them in college," say the educators, "and over a period of time we'll give you men fit to be officers, and men that can help out in forming the post-war peace."

"Innaay," says the Army, "first let's win the war; second, provide for a peace; and then, we'll worry about education."

Which, the educators argue, means exactly the same thing—seems to be simply a matter of opinion.

Reserve Status

(Continued from page one)

Nabb stated that according to Assistant Secretary of War Dorr, those enrolled as juniors in advanced ROTC next semester will probably be called up, if the Army Plan to take the reserves in February goes through. Nothing was said about senior ROTC students.

Yesterday, McNabb, who had an hour and a half private conference with Assistant Secretary of War Dorr, revealed that the Navy is planning to leave its reserves in college after which they will send them elsewhere for specialized training.

McNabb also enlarged upon the proposed two year post-war course for all college men which would be paid for by the government. The plank was incorporated into the Army Plan at the suggestion of President Roosevelt and is designed to insure a steady flow of college graduates after the war.

Suggesting to the assistant secretary that definite peace aims should be set up, McNabb told Dorr that students could fight better and study better if they were.

Dorr's reply was that the Army was first concerned with winning the war, then the peace, and after that education. However, he added that the armed services do want students in high school to finish.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Hillel, Chanukan Festival, Friday evening service, Hillel Foundation, 7:15 p. m.

WRA IM basketball final between Grange and ChiO, White Hall gymnasium, 7 p. m.

WRA Christmas Party, White Hall lounge, 2 to 4 p. m.

Engineers' Hop, music by Nitany Lions, Rec Hall, 9 p. m.

Skull and Bones Party, Beta Theta Pi House, 9 p. m.



Student Department

Sunday, 9:30 a. m.

Final Meeting

Theme by J. S. Cobb, Jr., '43

Christmas Candlelight and Communion Service

Westminster Hall, Sunday, 6:45-7:45 p. m.

Christmas Morning Breakfast

Thursday, Dec. 17, 7 a. m. Fireside Room

Final Meeting Tuesday Night Fireside Group

Fireside Room, 7-8 p. m.

Time For Action

Perhaps it's untimely or unsound to refer to this subject again, but Collegian would like to know what is being done with the \$5,000 supposedly freed for a more comprehensive physical fitness program for individuals when jayvee and freshmen sports were discontinued.

If plans have been made to extend the scope of the present physical education program, nothing has been announced. And with time passing as it is, the war may be over before Penn State wakes up to a need as important as any other part of the war training program. This college needs more than mere learning from books or experience. It needs a program to put its students in better physical condition.

The naval unit stationed here requires that each of the ensigns take one hour of exercise per day, and their scholastic schedule is no snap. Going to classes from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m., they still manage to get in one hour to keep in shape, even if they have to do it at night.

It might have been just as well to continue the junior varsity and freshmen schedules, for under those conditions a lot more students would be getting physical training than now. That \$5,000 might just as well be thrown away if its present status as a dust-collector remains.

The argument could be presented that persons who want to get in good physical condition will do so without being scheduled periods and made to do so. That's true, but there are a lot of other persons who have a desire to be better fit, but who won't take the initiative. Perhaps conditions are crowded in Rec Hall, but lengthening hours to extend classes in the evening would partially solve this problem.

Is White Hall being used all the time? If not, why couldn't one or two days a week be set aside when only men would use it? Signs at the entrances could indicate it's "men's day," and with \$5,000 to aid, someone could be posted at several strategic points in the building every day in case of mixup. Put more hooks around Rec Hall and have someone watch clothes. A lot can be done to stretch out present physical education facilities, despite cries to the contrary.

When students come to the point later on where the last ounce of physical exertion turns the tide, the necessity of constantly being "in shape" then will become apparent. It will be then that the laxity of a Penn State physical education program for upperclassmen will make itself felt.

Student enrollment next semester is almost certain to be lower, thereby lessening the strain on the gym's facilities and opening the way for compulsory physical education for juniors and seniors. Action on this must be taken soon so that periods can be planned on next semester's schedules. The Collegian throws its columns open for publicizing a plan if the athletic heads could see clear to spend that \$5,000 on physical fitness for individual students.

Perhaps this paper is wrong about nothing being done to get more students in shape, and maybe something is being done with that \$5,000 earmarked for a physical fitness program. Nevertheless, so much action is apparent, and it is a pressing need.

IT'S ALWAYS . . .

The Corner
unusual

"BATTERY LAID AND READY"

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