

THE COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

Established 1940. Successor to the Penn State Collegian, established 1904, and the Free Lance, established 1887. Published every Friday during the regular College year by the staff of the Daily Collegian 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. Subscriptions by mail only at \$1.00 a semester.

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Friday, July 30, 1943

Strong Medicine

A Penn State hungry for original thought experienced a rare treat this week.

For one of the few times in many, many months—in fact, in many semesters—Penn Staters had a chance to hear first-hand, on their own campus, the dynamic message of an outstanding American.

Dr. Max Lerner, distinguished American liberal, educator, author, and lecturer, stood before a capacity weekday crowd in Schwab Auditorium. With unquestionable sincerity and a penetrating logic he surveyed the present day international scene and presented his analysis of the chief dangers facing America and the post-war world.

It is unimportant that not all of those present think as Dr. Lerner does on vital post-war problems. What is important is that he was able to inspire those present to think—to drag out half-dormant and vague ideas, combine them with their more definite beliefs, and stack them up against the opinions of an outstanding student on political philosophy and policy.

Because of that, Dr. Lerner's lecture provided Penn State with an element of intelligent consideration of the gigantic problems confronting every American and especially every student of our colleges to whom America must look for its post-war leaders.

It was an extension of the work carried out sporadically on the Penn State campus by a scattered few of our professors and by such sincere but minor-league efforts as the Liberal Arts Lecture Series. It was but a taste of the work conducted through major, well-organized programs in other leading colleges.

However, we thoroughly enjoyed that taste.

We venture the guess that at least a thousand of those attending that lecture enjoyed it too.

And we feel certain they'd agree that Penn State needs a more regular menu of the same quality. L.T.C.

Chance For The G.D.I.'s

Penn State's independent student groups have at last within their grasp a chance to assume real campus leadership.

Two factors have been responsible for the opportunity now in the hands of those non-fraternity and non-sorority students commonly referred to as "the G. D. I's."

The first of these is the war-caused inactivity of many of the regular organizations and activities which assumed dominance in pre-war Penn State.

The second factor is the farsighted action of the officers of the four major independent groups in merging to form an all-independent union-for-action council.

Purpose of that new council is to unite the vast memberships of IWA, IMA, Penn State Club, and Philotes into a coordinated group capable of launching an active program of social events, athletic contests, and other pertinent extra-curricular activities.

If the blue prints drawn up by the Independents' officers council are carried through to completion by an aroused and energetic independent-student faction, that position of campus leadership is certainly within reach.

But if the Independent students fall back once more to their easy-going disunity and common "what the hell" attitude where their own organizations are concerned, their chance for accomplishment will fast fizzle out; and they might as well expect a return to their old role of "second fiddling" to smaller but better organized groups.

The Independents' officers and the present-day campus conditions have provided the opportunity. From now on it's up to the G. D. I's. L.T.C.

Morale Builders

Student weekend activities have slackened since the wartime acceleration program was begun in an effort to save money, big splurges, and special entertainments for those friends, loved ones, and husbands in the armed forces of the nation. That was understandable.

Now we have stationed here approximately 3,000 representatives of those armed forces. We have in State College more service men than we have students. But instead of being entertained during their "liberty," instead of receiving those programs which we figured were for them, they wander about streets with little or nothing to do.

They go to the movies with every other student and citizen of State College—Saturday nights. They participate in All-College fun nights that are scheduled from time to time. They drop in at the service center just beginning to have influence in town. They go for tea and cookies to sororities and dorms for brief welcoming parties, but they aren't ready for extensive hikes or bicycle rides on the weekend as are students who merely go to classes all week. They're drilled in the bargain and would just as soon find enjoyment in a more leisurely past time.

The simple things of life are being fed to them in concentrated quantities and they're ready, when the weekend rolls around, for something different . . . a special entertainment, dance, or an afternoon of leisure in a lounge or building designed for their usage.

We can't, at a moment's need, erect a building, equip a lounge, or supply anything any soldier's heart might desire.

But with a College of so many fraternal groups, a fast-growing independent council of men and women, more than the ordinary number of schools and departments, large number of athletic and recreational facilities, located in a town of persons either actively engaged in or connected with such a college, 2,000 students should be able to provide plenty of activity for Uncle Sam's nephews in barracks here.

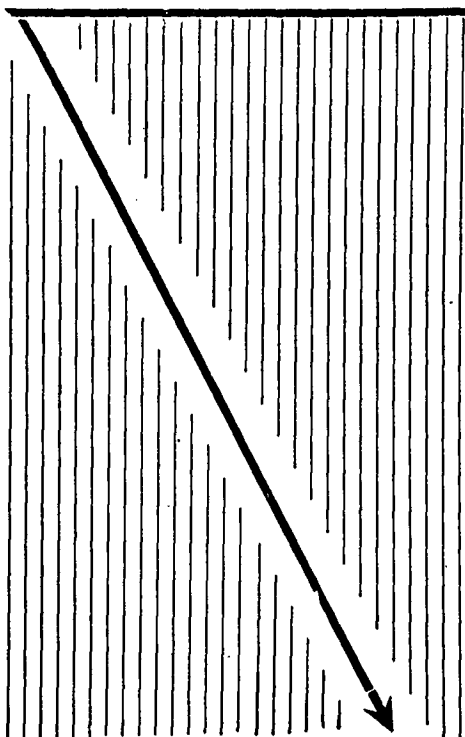
If a wide-encircling committee would sit down for a long think and an active discussion, more ideas than could ever be utilized would appear.

Let them plan at least one outstanding program per weekend; perhaps Victory Weekend might be a guiding light. Let them bring in at least one big-name band for a capacity crowd.

It isn't wild to suggest that they contact the vox pop set-up or another top spot radio group to visit the campus for a unique program before 3,000 servicemen and victory workers representing at least seven phases of the nation's forces.

Since our student leaders don't have to deal with the usual problems of a College program, why shouldn't they put forth an effort to boost the morale and entertain properly and extensively those groups which need more than good meals to keep them happy in their wartime positions.

A Penn State Tradition



The Corner
unusual

We, The Women

712 Coeds Fail To Vote

School spirit can be measured numerically! Figures don't lie! Results of the voting in WRA preliminary elections prove this. Out of a possible 900 women students, only 188 votes for president were cast; however, 81 out of 120 freshmen voted to elect their representative.

Can upperclasswomen afford to set such an example for freshmen?

There is yet time to prove your enthusiasm and regard for your future leaders of this important part of women's activities.

You can vote in the finals today and make an effort to compensate for your lack of spirit in the primary elections.

WRA is for every individual coed and at present, the need for participation in the phases of WRA is becoming apparent to all of us. Current use of White Hall facilities proves its part in our respective schedules yet we neglect to democratically vote for its leaders.

In order to sustain the phases of WRA such as Co-Rec, Intramural, Inter-Class, Sports Clubs and Dances, the unanimous support of each coed is needed.

In the chaotic world of today, we must preserve our privileges with regard to their continuance in the future.

Contrary to the lack of enthusiasm in the recent elections was the success of the Co-Rec program sponsored and conducted by WRA last Saturday evening.

Over 200 participants were gathered in front of White Hall to play volley, fist, and basket ball, archery, ping pong and bridge. Over 150 couples danced to recorded music on the parking lot. It proved to be a united school function which was heartily sanctioned by everyone.

Similar energies have been exerted throughout the intramurals.

Perhaps, an individual effort to get out and vote will bring us a more united and fluent government for this very essential element of school life. M.J.M.

Traditions . . . Born Not Made

With the appointment of a Lion Shrine committee last week, All-College Cabinet hoped to add this recent class gift to the long list of sacred College treasures. A committee can keep away vandals but that is all. It cannot say, "This shrine is a College tradition; please tip hats in reverence when passing." A tradition is born, not made. So, while this commendable bit of sculpturing is new on campus, we hope students will take pride in it and, without the senseless demands of the administration or a committee, will revere it properly.

Letters To Editor

Letters to the Editor is your column. Students, faculty, servicemen, and townspeople are asked to treat it as such and contribute frequently. We are eager to hear your views, ideas, and complaints. Space permitting, we will publish all contributions subject to editing for interest and libel. Address such letters to the Editor, Collegian Office, Carnegie Hall, Campus.

Gob Grips At Grass Grazers

Editor, Collegian:

As one of the uniformed men floating around this lovely campus, and adhering to the strict rules of discipline laid down by the Navy, I'd like to file one minor objection . . . It's this: why-o-why do our fellow-members of the services, the members of the ASTP and the Air Corps, spend their spare moments sprawled over the green glades and turf of my adopted campus?

We men of the Marines and Navy are being trained to be officers and gentlemen, and—as such—at least maintain ourselves in an erect position. The Army boys are receiving excellent instruction in other phases of their training, but why not round out their training? V-12 Gob

Student Wants Sunday Movies

Editor Collegian:

Proposals for Sunday movies at Penn State have been like the weather—everyone talks about it and no one does anything. How about Collegian starting an all-out campaign that will hit the right sources and really get some results?

Cadmus L. G. Goss '44