

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, August 13, 1943

These Are Revision Days

Campaigning strains tighten this week for the last time of the semester as primaries for frosh elections close and they throw their last bait before the finals.

The frosh have proved one big thing with their action in the primaries held yesterday. The fellows who wear the and the coeds who tie their hair in green are still, even during wartime program, the ones who have the enthusiasm. That should be gratifying to those who felt that it might have waned or who imagined a great laxity in the spirit of the College newcomers.

But their balloting, as well as the votes that were cast at the beginning of the semester for upperclass offices, point out a bigger thing. The elections code, as it stands for the duration, needs a bit of a revision.

Problems have shown themselves, difficulties have arisen which could not be foreseen. Since they have been found, now is the time for action to change parts of the set-up which will make for more efficient elections and which will eliminate should be defined further. It should be made clear just who has the capacity to electioneer, and in what boundaries such person can be active.

Provisions are needed concerning the reasons for penalties, and further power should be given the elections committee to act on those mistakes made by candidates.

Too few errors were listed and in many cases, the committee had to overlook things that they felt should have been punishable. If they are to inflict punishment, they must first have the wrong-doings classified.

The code says nothing about candidates having representatives present at candidate meetings with the committee if the runners themselves are not available. It doesn't indicate whether or not nominees may be present at the vote counting.

It leaves too much open for committee decision in these cases and limits their activities on other questions which would ordinarily be at their disposal.

The code does not set a limit on the number of candidates which can participate in the elections of one class, thereby making it possible for ridiculous numbers to run. In so doing, the code allows the one polling a plurality to win unless special arrangements are made for primaries as they were in this past week.

It would seem wise for Cabinet or the Elections Committee to call in those persons who participated in the last two elections and through a round table discussion find flaws in the code from the two points of view represented. In that way, new ideas can be chanced upon and old gripes can be hashed over. A meeting of the two groups most involved should result in a code proving satisfactory to everyone concerned.

Short-Cut To Success

We'd like to offer a tip to any Penn Stater who might want to spend less time at his studies and still get even higher grades.

A unique combination? . . . Yes. But unique is a pretty exact description of the pioneer course being offered by the department of education and psychology for the first time this semester.

Officially earmarked "Education 100—Reading Clinic," the experimental course sets out to diagnose and correct reading, study, and spelling faults. Basically, it teaches college students to read.

The reading clinic course is a notable milestone in the career of Dr. Emmett Betts, reading clinic head, who has spent years in proving his theory that learning to read properly is at least as important to success as learning to speak and to write well, and that the incorrect reading habits owned by most college students are serious impediments to their scholastic efficiency.

To prove that theory, Dr. Betts has studied hundreds of

test cases. With the help of graduate assistants, he has devised scores of special tests—and special testing machines, when necessary—to break down the "simple" process of reading into its component parts, in order to find exactly what phases of seeing or reading were slowing down or muddling up the works. He worked out specialized practice-plans aimed at the correction of each specific flaw, and he tested and re-tested on actual "test cases" until he found the most effective procedures.

The most successful of the testing devices have been embodied in the pioneer course now underway, and the outstanding corrective machines and methods have been adapted to meet the personalized needs of each of the 22 course enrollees.

"Early returns" from every one of the course's members we've talked to sound like excerpts from the case histories recorded earlier by Dr. Betts—already paragraph comprehension is increasing, words are assuming more meaning, key ideas are sticking longer, and speeded-up reading ability is cutting down on study time.

Dr. Betts has made a contribution we predict will be of widespread and major importance; the students lucky enough to be taking advantage of it now agree wholeheartedly.

Other Penn Staters who might feel the need of a scholastic boost might do well next semester to take advantage of an important home-front discovery. Try learning to read. L.T.C.

It's Your Tomorrow

The College is fast realizing that it nears the end of its second wartime Summer semester as Summer school students have left the campus, post session people start to pack up their things, and the class of what was once '44 begins to plan for its future this Fall.

The administration has done a remarkable job in changing this institution into a camp for servicemen and in still maintaining a high standard for its regular civilian curricula. The student body, in the large part, has played its role well; it has registered in large numbers for summer semesters when the time would ordinarily have gone for money making, vacation, and experience.

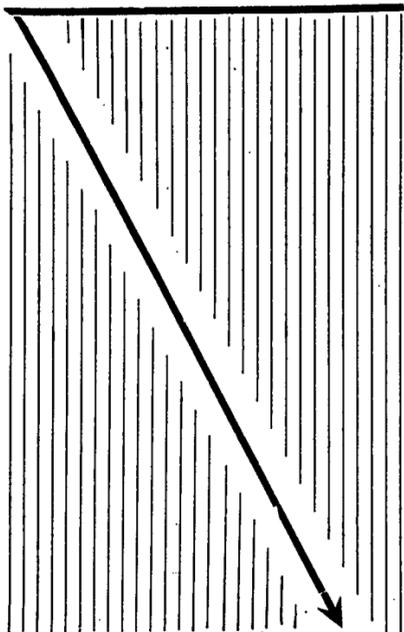
Days of reckoning come about this time each year when the involved persons stop and evaluate the results of their job. Students, are you satisfied with the wartime arrangement? Do you feel that you have definitely missed some essential thing? Are you eager to see the whole set-up continued in the post-war world or do you feel it should be destroyed as soon as possible?

It should be thought about. Even if you are not sure what your idea of the program is or how much it has benefited you, it is necessary for you to consider the situation.

Do all this, State students of today, realizing that you will build colleges as foundations for tomorrow. Plan to spend as much time preparing and perfecting a peace as you have in mustering and fighting a war.

"Think now and forever hold your peace."

A Penn State Tradition



The Corner
unusual

Letters To Editor

Prof Comments On Edit

Managing Editor, Collegian:

Your editorial "For Profs Only" is incomplete without raising the equally important question: "How can you make the proverbial horse drink after you led it to the fountain of knowledge?"

Do you know the answer?

Hans Neuberger

Geophysical Laboratory

(The answer to that question, we feel, is largely in meeting the standards Dr. Lerner outlined, for it is our opinion that "drinking from the fountain of knowledge" is largely a process which would come automatically in classes whose teachers "measured up." Student attitude in any college, we feel, is largely a reflection of the work of the professors of that college; we cannot see how outstanding teachers can produce anything less than increased interest and learning. We feel certain of that stand because we've met a few such professors in Penn State, professors who met and overcame conditions of student indifference at its worst—who were able to take an apathetic class in a required course and win from that class a high degree of interest and original thought.

We admit that there will always be a few "students" whose background or interests would keep them from responding to the very best instruction. With those, however, the question of "forcing them to drink" would be unimportant, for the teachers' great task is in providing the means for acquiring knowledge, belief, and action. That's what most students pay for, and what they expect to get.

Whether he is providing the student with that chance is what we wanted each professor to test for himself. . . . L. T. C.)

We, The Women No Time For Isolation

Tradition has long dictated that this column be devoted exclusively to the immediate problems, prides, and peevish of we the women on this campus. But that tradition was begun in the days when groups could isolate their thoughts and their actions without harming either themselves or the community.

At a time like this, it is more than a little out of place for any group to feel that their own small problems merit so much attention. We live in too small a world as it is, from reality as we are in State College.

There is no excuse for us to accentuate this isolation by devoting column after column to freshman customs, the lack of dates, and coeds' lack of interest in college elections.

This, then, is a double-barreled plea. It is a request that coeds wake up to the fact that newspapers and the radio are still accessible in State College, and that the things that they tell of are well-worth more than a fleeting glance.

And it is a request that coeds wake up to the fact that there are more things happening on campus than are dreamed of in their philosophies of dates and frosh-Judicial altercations.

It is a request that coeds take advantage of the all too infrequent visits of men who can tell of what's happening in that other world to which we pay so little regard.

Every week at Chapel a visitor discusses a message that we could well afford to hear—but of course that would involve getting up early on Sunday mornings.

Several weeks ago Max Lerner spoke here—and the majority of the 1800 coeds were conspicuous by their absence.

Last night, at an open meeting of the reading seminar, Dr. S. T. Hayakawa, professor of English at the Illinois Institute of Technology, discussed the importance of language as a science—but probably so few coeds knew of Dr. Hayakawa's visit, despite wide publicity, that it's hardly fair to pass judgment on their lack of attendance.

Sunday afternoon, Dr. Maurice Samuels, noted author and traveler, will discuss "The Jew and the World of Tomorrow." It is a topic of no little significance to all of us despite, or maybe because of, our isolation. A fair showing of coeds at that discussion would make us happy to eat every word of this jeremiad. L.H.L.