

THE COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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What About Civilians?

A uniformed Engineer asked the other day where he could find a Red Cross blood bank because "he'd like to do something for this war."

The incident reminded us of Penn State's disappointing experience a few semesters back when an overwhelming majority of campus inhabitants proved themselves afraid of the prick of a needle. Or maybe they were just too busy to be bothered.

At any rate, a glance at the record shows that student population has been isolationists in action if not in theory. Mortar Board stamp sales in women's dormitories have pulled in a paucity of dimes; appeals to the same coeds for bandage-rolling activities brought only a few to the campus gauze center.

Now as American soldiers fight for a piece of land called Salerno in a battle which has impressed even this self-centered student body, Penn State will get another chance to pull itself out of the red side of the ledger.

Sponsored by All-College cabinet and directed by Chairman Dick Marsh, the local phase of the nation-wide Third War Loan Drive has just snapped out of a slow take-off into organized action. The committee has set the price of two jeeps as the College goal. The aim is high but not unattainable—not if student stamp buying comes out of its traditional slump. It will require a campus-wide digging into pockets by both individuals and organizations.

Help is needed on the selling end of the deal too. Hat society members and coeds must man the booths on campus and at the New Beaver Field Victory Raffle next Saturday. Class officers and organization heads must solicit among their members. Members must not refuse to contribute and contribute again.

Climaxing the sale will be the Victory Weekend events Saturday. The Raffle at halftime of the Bucknell game will give stamp buyers a chance at the game football and two credit slips at downtown stores. Votes at a 25 cent stamp each will name the service units' Victory queen at Saturday night's dance.

From now until the end of the month, the byword will be sell stamps and bonds to buy the jeeps. A sample copy of the merchandise will, if possible, be displayed in front of Old Main.

In Salerno, soldiers are dying because they want to "do something;" at Penn State a soldier wants to find a blood bank because he wants to "do something." And what about civilians?

Let's Play Politics

Any sincerely good intentions that Cabinet might have had in proposing to reestablish two political parties with an equal balance of power are certainly paving the well-known road to Hades by this time.

After inviting all the candidates of the last All-College election to their meeting Tuesday night, Cabinet proceeded to outline their proposed plan to line up party members regardless of previous political affiliations. Candidates were to draw slips which had been numbered "1" and "2." All well and good up to that point.

But, as usual, there was a neat little loophole which turned into a death noose for any kind of equality between the two factions. When all the numbers had been drawn, anyone who so desired could trade places with someone on the other side. After this little fiasco had taken place, it was no surprise to anyone to see that all the members of a former party clique were sitting on one side of the table, while opposite them were the miscellaneous, the also-rans, and those who were newly initiated into politics this past semester.

The whole meeting resembled a group of kids choosing up sides for a game of "Red Rover," rather than a serious attempt to clean up College politics. But it's hardly fair to say that it was the method devised which was mainly at fault. Any system, no matter how objective, would probably have resulted in the same ultimate outcome. It was inevitable for the simple reason that there still remains a strong nucleus of once-affiliated politicians.

But there is a simple and obvious remedy. Since there is no way to prevent the reestablishment of this former clique, the solution lies in the formation of another clique which will be ambitious enough and strong enough to organize a firm platform and work towards its realization. Political organization along these lines would certainly be a refreshing enough novelty for Penn State to attract a lot of attention and support.

Perhaps the fault with this remedy lies in its very simplicity. People have a tendency to leave the simple and the obvious to the other fellow.

On Tuesday night a meeting which is open to all potential politicians will be held in Old Main. The turnout for this meeting will show whether we are capable of organizing a decent and effective student government; and it will largely determine Penn State's political set-up for the duration, at least.

Front And Center . . .

Although we hate to start with the tritest of the trite by lauding our predecessor, we want it to be known that M. J.'s brain child won't suffer too much at our hands.

Little glimmers of this and that keep seeping through about former campus sharpies who are hot-dogging it no more. Air Corps Cpl. Paul Heberling has been up around Centre County way for the last few days. Paul, who is stationed in Richmond, and second in command of a combat force, gunnery instructor, and aircraft armorer, has an array of medals, pins, and gadgets that make even our former ROTC cadet captains look a little amateurish.

Anything but That

Jim Casey went home not so

long ago to visit with his sister S. Eileen, former Penn Stater, who was home on furlough.

We walked into a class last week to see a Navy V-12er reading a V-mail letter from his father who is in Australia.

The pay off came when it was whispered to us that Cpl. Ray Stein is one of the "my eyes are dim, I cannot see" boys stationed at PENN. Our sympathies, Ray.

Here and There

Lt. John Fogel was recently awarded the Air Medal as a member of the Fourteenth Air Force and his name has been added to the Ellington Hall of Heroes. Lt. Fogel was cited for having participated in more than 100 hours of combat flying over Burma, China, and India.

By RITA M. BELFONTI

Ben Bailey, one of Collegian's former sports editors, is taking advanced flight training at Greenwood, Miss.

Pvt. Barney Ewell, Penn State's three time IC4-A sprint and broad jump champion, is up for the Camp Lee, Va., football squad.

Awarded for Gallantry

Lt. Arthur Warnock has received the Air Medal for meritorious service in flying bombing raids against the Axis. Lt. Warnock has qualified for three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

Lt. John Semanchyk has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry. He has participated in every major engagement in Tunisia and Sicily. Lt. Semanchyk has also rated the Purple Heart.

Deans, Profs Back Exemptions

(Continued from page two) seem well adapted to the plan. I can therefore see no reason for not adopting the 'finals' plan on a permissive basis."

Harry P. Hammond, dean of the School of Engineering:

"No properly conducted examination is an aid in almost any study program. Of course, an improper exam is of little or no value. Exams in certain fields—especially objective examinations—are of little value. I can think of no practicable way, however, of dividing the courses into the two groups."

Charles W. Stoddart, dean of

School of Liberal Arts:

"Yes, definitely. I worked under that system 40 years ago when I was in College; I used that system when teaching; and I still believe in it. I consider it a definite incentive to better scholarship."

Edward Steidle, dean of School of

Mineral Industries:

"It is entirely immaterial to me whether the other School's go ahead with the plan. In Mineral Industries, however, I believe the type and standard of instruction is high enough to make the plan unnecessary."

Following is a tabulation of the poll, according to professors with-

in the Schools, on the question: "Do you favor Collegian's proposal for reducing the number of final examinations on the basis of demonstrated merit?"

Table with columns: SCHOOL, YES, NO. Rows include Agriculture, Liberal Arts, Mineral Ind., Education, Chem-Physics, Engineering, Phys Education, and Totals.

Ballots were signed by professors, and tabulated results will be presented to the Committee on Academic Standards.

Campuseer . . .

By the grace of the five women who are now the big shots around the office, we are permitted to continue for a few more weeks in our accustomed place. Of course, the front page this morning may seem to be out of joint, but it is just one of the

foibles of the ex-managing editor, who is nuts to try something new.

From Fame to Here . . .

Newest addition to the Thespian line-up is Gil Stratton of the Air Corps. Gil was a Broadway star and has worked in Hollywood and on the air before his debut with Uncle Sam. He was conferring with the head tactotum of the script department, George Q. Graham, concerning his role as m.c. of the show when we saw him. He's not so tall, pretty good looking, has a rosy complexion, and looks the part for the junior leads he's been playing. He's married, too.

Stratton got his start in the business while still in high school when he went on tour with the road companies of "Brother Rat" and "What a Life." His first Broadway show was "Life With Father." Then he got a break and played the juvenile lead opposite Rosemary Lane in "Best Foot Forward." In between he went to St. Lawrence College for one year. He ended up in Hollywood after the tour of the road show of "Best Foot . . ." While there he played in a picture with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, and on the air his principal job was in the Henry Aldrich show.

From Out of the South . . .

We got a letter yesterday. It was from one of our old colleagues on this paper. He had just returned from extensive maneuvers and two weeks in a fox hole. Climax of the whole show was a beer party on the Army, and real brew, not "vitalized juice," as he describes the 3.2 beer they usually get. But what we want to tell you is his reaction to the poll he read about in Collegian. "You students are back there, practically in seventh heaven, and yet you bitch. I can't figure it out. Of course the grade of instruction is bound to be lower, since so many of the faculty have gone to war. The time for your bitching is past, or in the future. So why don't you guys keep still?"

(Continued on page seven)

Graphic with text: This Weekend . . . The Corner unusual