

THE COLLEGIAN

Established 1910. 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 3, 1879. Subscriptions by mail only at \$1.00 a semester.

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Friday, December 10, 1943

Final Action On Finals

Anyone with a sufficiently tenacious memory may recall that last semester Collegian presented to the College Senate a plan whereby students with a "2" average in a course would be exempt from the final examination for that subject. For the benefit of those who are still interested or those who have despaired of hearing further development on the matter, it has been announced that the Committee on Academic Standards, delegated to investigate the plan, will present its findings at the next meeting of Senate.

Its instigators based their support of the plan on the assumption that it would encourage more constant academic effort on the part of students. To back up their argument they obtained the opinions of professors and heads of departments through a system of questioning every fifth person listed among the College staff in the student directory. A large majority of these polled expressed total or partial agreement.

The original intention was that the bill, if passed, would go into effect last semester. However, since it was presented too close to the end of the term to allow sufficient research, action was postponed. Senate referred the bill to the Committee on Academic Standards for presentation this semester.

The plan of investigation adopted by the committee was to get the reaction of each of the seven schools of the College regarding the proposed final exemption bill. Necessity of surveying opinions within the schools and preparing these reactions for submission to the committee probably explains the time lapse. However, this work is now completed and the plan is apparently ready to be acted upon by Senate at its next meeting, the first Thursday in January.

Whether or not the bill will again experience the fate of last semester; that of reaching the Senate too late to be put into effect, is the current question. Undoubtedly in some courses the omission of a final examination for even some students could not be arranged without revamping teaching plans. It is likely that this would not be the case in all subjects. Also, the plan, if adopted, would probably be passed with the understanding that the ultimate choice between final and no final would rest with the professor.

The proposal has a number of points to recommend it. It is the opinion of most of the professors polled last semester that such a set-up would encourage day by day study and eliminate the necessity of cramming at final time. It would do away with the last-week of the semester rush which both professors and students tend to regard as something of an anti-climax . . . an unpleasant tagline to a term that they feel is already, for all practical purposes, completed.

Unless the reports filed by the schools and presented to Senate in January reveal an unexpected reversal of the feeling expressed by professors and heads of departments when the bill was introduced, it would seem that Senate would be acting on the desire of both students and teachers by making the proposal effective, at least on an optional basis, at the end of the present time.

The Fight Is Yours

Last week the upper chamber of Congress struck a telling blow at one of the basic precepts of democracy. By defeating the Green-Lucas bill, which provided voting facilities for servicemen, and substituting a weak measure which left the balloting problem up to the states, the Senate virtually denied to 10 million Americans the right to voice their opinion in the 1944 elections.

The original bill would have created a four-man bi-partisan board which would have been in charge of a plan to insure absentee voting for the men in the armed forces and the merchant marine. This is surely not an outlandish plan, it is surely not revolutionary. It is no more than the very least that men who are sacrificing part, or

all, of their lives, can expect from the government for which they bear arms. Unfortunately, our senators were not able to see the issue in such a simple and clear-cut light. The Southern bloc of poll-taxers were afraid that once their constituents tasted the power of the vote, they would not willingly submit to disenfranchisement because they could not pay the poll tax when they returned to their own country.

So the issue was obscured on the grounds of states rights, which most Americans thought they had settled in another war. Senate would have the Federal government, for which 10 million men are willing to shed their blood, wash its hands of the responsibility of guaranteeing to these men the right to vote.

In acting thus the Senate has struck a blow, not only at 10 million Americans, but at 132 million. For in a democracy when any group is denied its rights, the basic foundations of the government are shaken, and everyone suffers. This does not concern only 10 million men in uniform—it concerns every American. Perhaps it is of even more concern to those of us who are on the home front, for we are the ones who can fight back. The men who are fighting on the front lines can merely read the news releases and curse the wrongdoers. We can read those releases and act.

At present, the issue is before the House Privileges and Elections Committee, which has been called on to approve the Senate's action in shelving the Green-Lucas bill. The men on this committee should know that the people they represent are against the Senate's measure. They should be told that the American people will not tolerate any action which denies their fellow countrymen a constitutional right.

There is a chance to save the soldier's vote bill, and that chance is yours. You can write to the House Privilege and Elections committee and tell them that you, as an American, demand that they act as Americans and defeat the measure that would deny an American right to our fighting men. It won't even cost you a three-cent stamp. Sign your name in the box below and hand it in at Student Union, or the Collegian Office. Collegian will send your petition to Washington. Is it worth five minutes to fight for the men who are fighting for you? L.H.L.

Representative Eugene Worley, Chairman, House Privileges and Elections Committee.  
Men who have the courage to fight have the right to vote.  
The Senate's bill handing absentee voting over to the states is a disgraceful infringement on American rights.  
Don't let the same thing happen in the House of Representatives. Defeat the Senate's bill.  
Student  
The Pennsylvania State College

ALWAYS . . . . .

The Corner  
unusual

Lions Tales . . .

By M. JANE McCHESNEY

Here in the Nittany Valley we are making state history by inaugurating the first BMOC dance.

Jackie Erwin, gamma phi, married Ed Sullivan, kappa delta rho, recently. Larry Stanton, theta phi alpha, is going to Michigan to see Staff Sergeant Bob Earl over vacation, we are told.

Campus leaders who will be present include alpha chi omega Peggy Good and delta chi Art Christmas, alpha chi Pat Halberg and Bob Scott, V-12 . . . alpha chi Sue Sickler and Harold Bucher, Jane Neetzow, gamma phi, and Walt Buchanan, V-12, theta Winnie Singer and Bruce Worell, lambda chi, Phil Schumaker, delta chi, and frosh Barb Engstrom . . . kappa June Daniels and Ensign Swanson, Jane Stoudnour, gamma chi, and Dick Kestor, delta sig, Shirley Levine, sigma delta tau, and Don Butler, V-12, chi omega Gloria Duerst and Ensign Fred Ellerich . . . Betty Robinson, chi omega, and Jim Bell . . . Guy Newton and frosh Jeanne Bosch.

Sojourn to the Valley . . .

Back to see the alma mater and friends this past weekend, Ensign Elizabeth Jane Bilet of the WAVES . . . kappa delt alum, felt at home among the many others in uniform on campus. Another visitor was Elynore Jane Turner, alpha epsilon phi, who is now a cadet nurse at Adelphi College in New York.

Anne Serocco, gamma phi alum who is now working at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, is expected to return soon as is phi gam alum Edward McKain.

Yuletide Gifts ? ? ?

Yes, there have been some premature Christmas gifts of jewelry for Jan Densmore, gamma phi, and Chuck Allen, sigma alpha epsilon, are pinned as well as Jane Cromis and Lloyd Ellison, delta chi.

Despite their recent unpinning, Penny Pennell and Larry Chervenak, theta chi, see a lot of each other, and kappa Betty Meyer has been seen with a navy man very often of late. —The Cub

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Keep your conscience clear. Waste paper is an important ally. Save it for victory!  
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The Little Old Gentleman Wants To Help You Make Your Christmas Shopping Easy

Yes, it's time once more to go through that annual ordeal of Christmas shopping. Shopping need not be such a task . . . there's no need to rush from store to store at the last minute to pick up a few, much handled, leftover gifts. By starting your shopping early you can choose from a wider assortment of gifts, and you avoid that late rush. This year why not ease your mind of the worry over Christmas gifts by getting them off your mind early. You'll find your Christmas vacation much more pleasant and your friends and family really pleased with their gifts.

State College Stores Offer High Quality Gifts at Low Prices

In State College you'll find an ideal spot for shopping. All the stores are within easy walking distance of the center of town. You'll find that they carry the highest quality merchandise and that it will cost you no more than in the big city stores. All the merchants are willing to help you make the wisest choice in your selection of gifts.

BUY YOUR GIFTS IN STATE COLLEGE