

**THE COLLEGIAN**

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Friday, December, 17, 1943

**Thanks, Penn State**

And what will Penn State students say to their children, when asked what they did in the Second World War? Well, they might exclaim, "I was very busy at college getting an education so that I'd become a better citizen and be able to safeguard democracy."

And they might also add that they were so busy getting an education that they couldn't take time out for a little practical action that would apply what they'd learned.

A lot has been written about the apathy of the majority of the "little people" when it comes to working for better and fairer government. But facts and figures are always more convincing than theorizing or preaching. And here are the facts about the apathy at Penn State:

Last week Collegian printed a petition to the House of Representatives Privileges and Elections Committee, asking that they squash the Senate's bill which would hand soldiers' voting arrangements over to the state, instead of leaving the plan to the Federal government. Collegian also printed an editorial, explaining the facts and the implications of the situation, and asking that students sign the petition and turn it in at Student Union, to be sent to the House committee.

Nine students thought it was worth their while to sign those petitions and turn them in. There are 3311 civilian students and approximately 2200 in uniform on this campus. That's roughly .1 of 1% of the people at Penn State who are supposed to be learning how to fight for their rights and how to guard them on the home front. And that's not democracy.

Perhaps that's why so many people find as many things wrong with the government—long after the time for action has passed. A democracy can't be run on the efforts of .1 of 1% of the people.

But there's no need for theorizing or preaching. These facts speak for themselves. L.H.L.

**Spreading The News**

Now that the PSCA has begun its series of news summaries Thursday evenings in Atherton Hall, students will no longer have a valid excuse for the complaint that although they want to keep informed on current happenings, they cannot seem to find time for regular newspaper reading. According to the plan of the Christian Association, a professor will review and interpret news of the week each Thursday during the period between first and second shift dinner.

Certainly in sponsoring these newcasts, the CA is complying with a request long ago expressed by students, particularly coeds. Professors, in giving their time to prepare and discuss topics, have shown that they are willing to do more than bemoan the lack of knowledge of their average class member. It would seem that the only problem should be finding space in an Atherton Hall lounge for all who will want to attend discussions.

**Old Mania—**

By RITA M. BELFONTI

Not much in the way of anything has nicked the definite tension which has buried State College now that Christmas vacation is a matter of marking off days on the calendar, and then just waiting for The Day.

**LETTERS TO EDITOR**

In order to clarify an erroneous rumor that has been making its way about campus, the Key Party feels that a proper interpretation should be made.

The statement made at the freshman mass-meeting was misconstrued to the effect that the Key Party was sponsoring the forthcoming All-College dance. This is not authentic, and in all justice to All-College Cabinet, the Key Party feels that an explanation of the rumor is in order.

The correct story states that the Key Party is fully behind an All-College dance, and is pushing the idea in full force. However, the inception of the All-College dance was formulated in Cabinet and the dance is being sponsored by the Cabinet.

The only unusual thing we saw all week was one poor student, who spent an entire class period adding up little sums, tearing up viciously the impossible bits of paper, and muttering disconsolately while gazing at a lean wallet. Even Christmas has its little problems. However, our agents have been on the job, and have managed to come forth with a few choice morsels in the way of what certain people are doing.

Saw Second Lt. Roy Hothan, Phisigmakapp alum, last weekend doing the town with Ann Berteling. . . . AEPHi Ruth Goodkind journeyed to Ft. Benning to collect a sparkler from Lt. Saul Hanin, Gamma Sig alum. The AEPHi's trekked to Williamsport last weekend for the big blowout. . . .

Ursula Frost, Theta Phi Alpha alum, tripped up to Boston last weekend to see Ensign Bill Rumberger, Penn State alum.

HORACE SMITH  
Key Party Chairman

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

**JACK HARPER**



**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**

**Elections Post-Mortem**

After the election has been fought and won any attempt to clarify an ambiguous statement made by a political party in the course of its campaign might be condemned as post-mortem. Since it is apparently too late to remedy any injustice which could have resulted in this particular instance, the question then is what is the value of a post-mortem.

The ambiguous statement with which Cabinet, the Elections Committee, two political parties, and an assortment of freshmen have been concerned during the past few days is that made by a candidate at the freshman elections mass meeting! After reasserting the party planks, the candidate, in an effort to demonstrate how his brothers are following promises with action, referred to the big-named dance band currently undergoing its embryonic stages under the direction of All-College Cabinet.

Said the candidate, "There has been a committee appointed and action has been taken in Cabinet through the persistence of candidates from the Key Party."

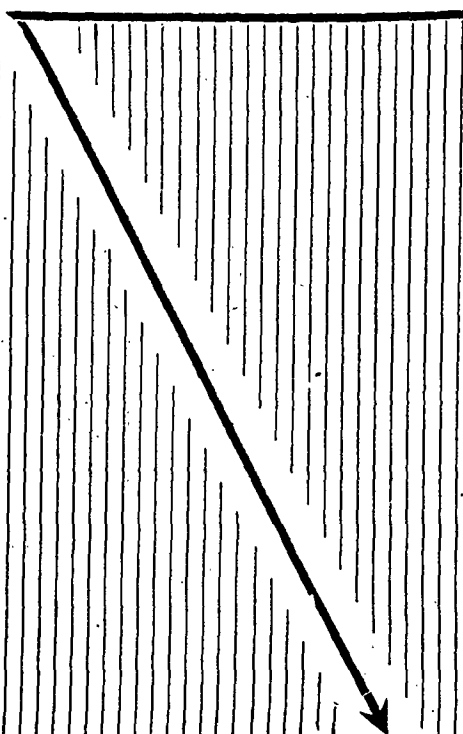
It would seem that the most charitable criticism of such a statement is that it is presumptuous. It ignores the efforts of members of the opposing group who, according to the dance chairman, are also putting in a bit of time for the sake of a successful event, and incidentally, for the benefit of the students they represent.

Certainly the fact that the statement is a half-truth, a misrepresentation of the situation, should have been obvious to those responsible for it. It is undeniable that it had a definite effect upon freshmen who attended the meeting, and it is probable that it influenced the voting trend. Had it been made clear that only a part of the big-dance credit is due the Key Party, the contention could have been both forceful and legitimate as a campaign issue. As it was, the statement was only forceful.

Two sidelights of the controversy are rather surprising. One might wonder why any Lion representatives attending the meeting did not insist upon clarification of the issue on the spot. The second question involves the failure of the Elections Committee to arrange some penalty for an obvious misrepresentation of facts. The explanation of the committee is that there is no provision in the Elections Code whereby the offender could have been penalized. Such a post-mortem, then, brings to light one more weakness of the code which must be remedied at the next revision session.

That the offense should have occurred in a freshman contest, involving persons relatively inexperienced in political maneuvers, is particularly unfortunate. Because of this inexperience it is probable that the ambiguity was unintentional. However, failure to consider beforehand the interpretation of the audience is hardly a valid excuse. Although, apparently the freshman losing candidates are to receive no compensation for the injustice done them, it is to be hoped that this will not be regarded as a lack of recognition of the seriousness of the offense. Some provision should be made in the next code to remove any doubt that a repetition will meet with sharper punishment than a reprimand from the authorities.

**ALWAYS . . .**



**The Corner**  
unusual