

THE COLLEGIAN

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Friday, March 10, 1944

All editorials represent the opinions of the writer whose initials are signed to it, and not the opinion of the corporate Collegian staff. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

Wanted: Intelligent Voters

All-College elections which are scheduled for next week bring up one of the most important problems of student government, namely, how to get the student body to cast its vote. All too many Penn Staters are inclined to adopt the attitude that elections concern only those few who are directly interested in college politics—the clique politicians, the clique candidates and their friends whose votes they can control.

This is a most unfortunate viewpoint since the very essence of a democratic student government demands that those who are put into student offices represent the majority of the student body. Obviously this essential demand cannot be fulfilled unless every student develops a keen interest in politics and student government.

And yet, politics at Penn State has become a dead issue as far as the general student body is concerned, although it still remains a life-and-death proposition to the collegiate politicians. A situation like this can only result in making elections an almost personal struggle between two very small groups of people.

It is more than a little strange that a privilege like the voting power is held in such little regard. It is one of the most important duties and privileges of citizenship, men have fought for it for centuries; even now, the soldier vote issue has made it one of the most important national topics of the day.

A democratic election cannot be successful unless there is widespread popular interest in it, and this interest can arise only as a spontaneous action on the part of the voters. If Penn Staters want a student government that will really represent them, and one of which they can be proud, the only way to achieve this goal is for each student to consider it a personal obligation to cast an intelligent vote.

And the only way to cast such a vote is to become acquainted with the relative merits of each candidate and vote accordingly instead of assuming the attitude, "Well, if the politicians want my vote, they can come and get it." When a politician leads a voter to the polls, the result isn't necessarily an intelligent ballot.

Welcome, Frosh

A rough estimate from Mr. Watkins' office says that approximately 175 freshmen have enrolled for the Spring Semester which means that this week the same number of frosh have had their first taste of college life, their first coke at the Corner and it is hoped even now getting their first glimpse of a College publication.

It is unfortunate, but most "welcome editorials" to freshmen express themselves with an abundance of "gee we're glad to have you" and "say hello to everyone," and generally not only miss their original purpose, that of extending a sincere welcome, but become the ridicule of readers, old and new alike.

It would be a help, not only to present writers but to all those who are yet to come, if someone could think of a new way to express the sentiments they feel. To borrow from greater ones, one might print "We do at this time wish to extend our hands across the undefinable space that now divides our class from yours and bid you welcome," but used this way the words become exaggerated and, yes, simple. Nor would wear those customs like a banner and you will

Collegiate Review

That old-fashioned fellow who had a good head for figures now has a grandson who has a great eye for them.—Editorial on *The Sandbar*.

The war is tough on absent-minded professors too!

Because the army demands promptness, a Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., professor was hurrying along to meet his scheduled history class for army cadets. In one hand he carried some letters to be mailed, while in the other he had his grade book and quiz papers to be returned to the class.

As he rounded a corner he stopped at a mail box. He didn't discover until he got to his classroom that he had mailed his grade book and test papers and carried the letters with him.

It was a shame-faced prof who later went to the post office to reclaim his property and mail the letters.—A.C.P.

"Dating" is something unknown to college students in Mexico, according to Felipe Garcia Baraza, formerly a student at the National University of Mexico, who has entered Macalester College, St. Paul.

On a special Macalester scholarship fund, to study literature, habits and customs of the people of the United States, Felipe said:

"In Mexican colleges there is no social life. Students attend college only to study. They have no extra-curricular organizations, dances, or parties.

"Mexican men do not ask a girl to attend a movie with them or even to jaunt over to the corner drug store for a 'coke.' If a boy wishes to see a girl, he goes to her home, where he visits the entire family. This gesture is accepted as an indication that he is interested in marrying the girl."

President Hugh Clark Stutz of Searritt College, Nashville, Tenn., makes the point that neither economics nor politics is sufficient to hold the world together.

find others will treat them as such" offer much improvement.

There is obviously no solution or at least none that becomes apparent at this time. Instead it seems best adequate to state it almost as before, and as already admitted, simply.

The new freshman class is small, but mid-semester classes have never been as large as those entering in the fall. Because it is small, however, and because it enters at a time when the value of college is questioned by many, we heartily extend our welcome with lots of luck in case Judicial or Tribunal find cause for summons.—SFR



Buzzing The Field

with Roger

Welcome, Frosh . . . At all you lovely people who are on campus for the first time this week, particularly the coed element, the Air Corps howls with pride. By now you are probably well acquainted around here: you have found out where the Corner Room is, have made your way to the Cathaum, heard all about Hanna of Delta Gamma and have gazed longingly upon the forbidden portals of the Skellar. Maybe you didn't know that Servicemen went to school here also. Did your mothers tell you to be nice to boys in uniform? We felt like an old and loyal Penn Stater on Monday when one of you asked us the way to Schwab Auditorium. If there's anything at all we can do to help you through this hectic period of orientation and acclimatization, just ask us during our "free" time whenever that is.

It looks as though Marilyn Glöbisch, of Alpha Chi Omega, who was crowned Air Corps Queen at Green Tag Swingout last month, will be Queen for the duration. No plans are in the air for a Queen dance for the white, buff or red tags.

Whither Penn State? . . . Rumors are rife concerning what will happen to the College when the last Air Corps squadron and Engineer company move out. We've heard several: a contingent of WAVES will arrive to further complicate an already complicated social situation, the name of the school will be changed to The Nit-tany College for Women, State will become a sort of women's Harvard with the V-12 unit becoming a men's Radcliffe.

Things you always knew about Penn State but I didn't until now

(with apologies to W. W.) That the Corner Room et al used to be crowded . . . that it used to be hard (for a man) to get a date around here . . . that the gals could stay out till three a.m. the mornings after big dances . . . that Old Main had a sandwich shop . . . that Hort Woods was a campus institution.

A recent issue of *The Weekly News Magazine*, carried a story on the apathy of American women toward the WAC, WAVES, SPARS and Women Marines. A G. I. wrote a letter suggesting that a fifteen day furlough be given each soldier or sailor who recruited a new member, with a ten day extension for each additional. If such a plan were adopted (it won't be) coeds with star spangled hearts (as the recruiting posters say) would be given the well-known eye, plus a brand new line.

We promised something intellectual for those of the intelligentsia who have accused us of talking down in these weekly chit-chats. The following thesis is duly dedicated to them.

Architectural Influences as Exhibited in Old Main, from the Great Fire to the present . . . The portico, or porch, clearly shows the Greek influence of the early Hellenic period as exemplified by the cement pillars (probably Portland); the building proper is synonymous with the Dutch types (probably Pennsylvania) popular in this country since the days of Rip Van Winkle; the tower is definitely Italian, though the question whether it is of the Neanderthal or Middle Renaissance period is academic. In short, it is our considered opinion that Old Main shows the influence of everything but alcohol.

Boxing Intercollegiates

(Continued from page two)
Penn State's Joe Cutrone in the opening bout of the year at West Point, will be a big obstacle for Slater to meet in his drive for the crown. Houck also expects trouble from Coast Guard's Pete This-tle.

Pvt. Chuck Klausung appears to be the Lion choice in the 155-pound race, but Marine trainee Henry Buthman looked promising in practice this week, and Houck will not have a definite selection until tonight. Buthman is a Marine transfer from Northwestern and as a civilian was enrolled in his home state university of Ne-

Philotes Elects Officers

At their opening meeting of the spring semester, Philotes elected officers for the term and initiated new members. Nancy Coffin was elected president; Emma Jean Snyder, vice-president; Janet Bertollette, secretary; Lois Weaver, treasurer; and Betty Reed-Foltz, social chairman.

Recently admitted as new members were Katherine Bovard, Emily Shank, and Eleanor Castlebury.

braska. Klausung has as yet to win a decision in intercollegiate competition this year, but drew against Army in the second meeting of the two teams.

ALWAYS . . .

The Corner
unusual