

Editorials

Accelerated Plans

Since the accelerated program was instituted on campus, many of the people directly affected by the three semesters per year plan have undoubtedly felt it, physically and mentally.

Some American colleges might possibly continue with the speed-up in education in the post-war world. The main advantage of such a setup is that it graduates students who would still be in either of the last two years in college, and the ages of these people would see them in industry as the youngest ever to do so.

But will they meet the test as inexperienced youth in a world hardened as a result of war? Or will they characterize the conception that the younger the ideas, the more productive they will be?

The point is that an accelerated college year was somewhat of a forced experiment necessitated by the gaps left open as a result of the switching of manpower from civilian ranks into the armed forces. Trained men were needed, in the shortest possible time.

With peace should come education, not accelerated, but revised. It should be an education ready for any emergency, so that trained men will be ready. It should be education spotted with new ideas concerned with the preparation of our youth for the future.

Various postwar planning committees on education have been initiated. It will be their job to streamline education and provide for a more broadened program.

PSCA Contributes

One of the foremost organizations on campus is the Penn State Christian Association. Ever since its founding it has sponsored some activity, meeting, or other beneficial event. Gaps in the depleted social calendar since the war have been filled by the Association. Yet the PSCA is one of the most unlauded campus organizations and often misses a lot of the credit due to it.

PSCA inaugurated Old Main Open Houses, freshman orientation, Christmas carol sings, and many other projects now taken for granted as part of the College's activity program. It also has helped to unite the town student church organizations and other religious groups.

Tomorrow will mark another Old Main Open House for students, faculty members, and military personnel on campus. Planned for the night are numerous activities which should help to dismiss the "gee-it's-Saturday-night-and-nothing-to-do" blues. There will be plenty to do this Saturday night, and it's thanks to PSCA. —NC

Too Many Women

A very fine state of affairs is in store for the men of the Pennsylvania State College next semester. One of the most pleasant situations imaginable is due to materialize—too many women. Skirts of all sizes, shapes, and other vital characteristics will be seen swirling up the mall. Multiply the skirts by two and the sum total of well-turned feminine ankles should be sufficient to bring a gleam to the eye of the most bored and jaded senior.

This happy thought did not occupy the tortured minds of Penn State men of several semesters past. They were forced to contend with a vicious thing called the "ratio." This meant that there was a large number of men for every available woman, and any coed who wanted a date merely had to say "Yes."

It is not at all unlikely that next semester will see a marked change in this policy. All we can say is, "Praise the Lord, and pass the telephone book!" —BJC



News of the Week

By James E. Gillespie, professor of history.

As is often the case with great wars, there has occurred a slump in the general upsurge of optimism which had brought predictions of a speedy end of hostilities in Europe. From planning celebrations of victory day in every city and hamlet the nation has returned to a sober realization of the seriousness of the task which still confronts it.

While victory is no less certain and may be just around the corner, we can, with Prime Minister Churchill, now say that Germany may perhaps continue to fight through "several months" of 1945, perhaps through the winter and spring. Even after the goal of Berlin is reached Nazi bands may continue to fight in the woods and mountains of Germany until the last man is subdued.

Certain commentators seek to cheer us with the assumption that the winter cold and food shortage, which latter even Nazi broadcasts admit will reach a crisis stage ere long, will bring desired surrender.

On the other hand it is known that the Gestapo is zealously hunting down every liberal or moderate leader with whom the Allies might possibly deal. Stern commands to hold positions to the last man with the shooting of every tenth man where companies have retired has slowed Allied progress and resulted in bloody, stubborn fighting.

Nazi tactics of holding as long as it is at all possible and then destroying important seaports in France and the Netherlands while it has resulted in the capture or destruction of many valuable German troops has likewise kept from the Allies much needed port facilities, thus slowing the process of massing supplies and heavy equipment for the infliction of a crushing blow.

Only Cherbourg and Marseilles are now completely available to the Allies although if the Germans can be cleared away from the lower Scheldt Antwerp with its magnificent port facilities in good state of preservation, and closer to the fields of operation can be used. The British are now busy bombing the sea walls on the islands in the estuary of the Scheldt to flood the German forts located there.

Weather Provides Trouble

The weather, likewise, is a most important but uncertain factor this season of the year. If the weather had permitted full utilization of air power the tenuous hold secured by the parachutists at Arnhem might have re-

sulted in a successful outcome of the Allied attempt to flank the northern end of the Siegfried Line.

As it was 2000 of the 8000 "Red Devils" were withdrawn and the rest captured or killed. The new offensive which has started after several days of comparative lull above Aachen and near the Belfort Gap may also depend both on weather and how far artillery and other supplies have been massed.

It has been said that in the First World War no major offensive was launched in this part of Europe after early fall. So far after a terrific aerial, artillery, and ground attack a wedge was driven through pill boxes, foxholes, and field fortifications for a distance of 10 miles wide and 9 miles deep into the Siegfried Line north of Aachen and progress has been made to ten miles west of Belfort.

Advances were likewise made at other points in the long front extending from Holland to Switzerland, notably approaches towards Metz and Trier.

Dover Freed From Raids

With the capture of Calais and the silencing of the last German guns on Cap Gris Nez the deliverance of Dover from its long and heroic martyrdom has arrived. Subject for four years to continuous bombardment from the French Coast a scant twenty-two miles away, 548 civilian casualties were incurred and 1,200 buildings damaged.

While the flashes of the German guns could be seen the two minutes time it took for the shells to cross the Channel hardly gave time to take shelter and the majority of the people who remained existed in caves in the Chalk Cliffs.

Meanwhile on the Italian Front the Allies have advanced to within 18 miles of Bologna. In the eastern Mediterranean a landing has been made on Crete. The Russians and Marshal Tito's Partisans in Yugoslavia are converging on Belgrade threatening not only the capture of that city but the isolation of German troops in the Balkans. Russian troops in Slovakia and Rumanian troops crossing into southeastern Hungary threaten to force Hungary out of the struggle and later advance up the Danube.

The Poles in Warsaw under General Bor were reported to have capitulated. Bor's appointment by the Polish Government in Exile as Commander-in-Chief of Polish Forces appears to have (Continued on page eight)

Cassius Writes

Dear Brutus,

Well, it happened. I always said that it was merely a matter of time and now the women have proved my point. It happened Sunday and it was advertised as the "Battle of the Sexes." It was a quiz program between the "Strong Sex" and the "Fair Sex." The results were just what any sane person would expect.

The scoring was done on a point basis and the men won 160 to 80. Obviously this means that men are twice as smart as women. I know that this is an understatement, but who am I to doubt the figures. I suggest in any future quiz program of this sort the contestants be billed as the "Intelligent Sex" and "The Sex."

The questions were taken from the fields of current events, history, literature, sports, brain teasers, men's world (which the women answered) and women's world (questions answered by the men.) The results were uniform in every field—the women displayed their utter incompetency to understand the problems of modern life.

This is not to be thought surprising since in these changing days anyone who spends seven hours a day painting her face will be hopelessly behind the times. Naturally nothing else could be expected from a sex which demonstrated its ability to vote and to participate in the processes of government by chaining itself to lamp-posts and throwing beer bottles at state legislatures.

Now that we are on the matter of politics, I would like to tell you of an interesting item which is taking place on this campus. It seems as if the local politicians of one clique have started to lay plans for the elections next semester, and are now lining up candidates to carry the party on to victory. They have approached one very BMOC and are dickering with him to run for president of his semester. Before considering the matter, the gentleman in question has asked for proof of the amount of support he can expect, and party bosses are busy calling up people in order to get pledges of votes for their potential candidate. All this is taking place more than a month before the election.

What I don't understand (and the gentleman in question also) is how the politicians can be so certain he will get the nomination when the elections code specifies that nominations must be voted upon within the clique. It seems as if the boys are building up quite a machine.

Another matter of interest is the freshmen who outsmarted himself. He called up the young lady and asked for the pleasure of her company Saturday night. He got it. Then he decided to impress her. Heck, no girl would take a date for the formal so late in the week. He didn't want to go, he didn't even have a clean suit, but there was no danger, she'd never accept. So he asked her, "I'd love to," she said. —CASSIUS

ALWAYS . . .

The Corner

unusual

THE COLLEGIAN

Established 1940. Successor to the Penn State Collegian, established 1904, and the Free Lance, established 1887.

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