

# With the Editor

Come, a letter recently from the Alpha Sigma Phi's J. W. Putman that (to quote Mr. Putman) "is in reference to the current 'no corsages' drive which seems to have your (the Collegian) staff in such a dither."

Mr. Putman then goes on to say the same things that brother Alpha Sigma Phi-er Alex Petrowski did in a recent letter (which we published) about the same subject.

Since receiving the note from Mr. Putman we have made a careful search through the 55 issues of the Daily Collegian put out last semester; nowhere do we see a direct reference by any Collegian staff member favoring "No-Corsage" dances.

We have printed letters from campus groups which said that such-and-such a group was going to throw a dance and that it was going to be "corsage-less."

We did get excited when pressure was brought to bear on such a group. They were told that advertising in campus publications would drop off if they didn't stop a "no-corsage" campaign of theirs. We got excited, yes, because we believe enough in freedom of the press and thought to go down in defeat before giving up these cherished rights.

But—we have never advocated (as an individual or as a group) "No-Corsage" dances.

From a purely selfish standpoint, the question of flowers or not means nothing to the Seniors on Collegian. To get personal for a few minutes:

The editor has attended no formal dances this year, doesn't plan to and as a result isn't affected by the problem.

The managing editor is a woman; hence if she goes to any dances, her escort would have to worry about the matter.

The sports editor, when quizzed, said, "Dances, what are they?"

Our news editor is a fraternity man; so he doesn't have much say if the house decides to throw a formal dance with flowers and all.

And so it goes, all the way down the line. Honest, Mr. Putman, no one around here is excited; frankly, I don't think they give a tinker's damn."

But, Mr. Putman, when we get a letter (as we did today) from a group that plans a "No-Corsage" dance, there is nothing that we can do except print it. It's their dance and while the impression may often be given that we know everything over here, we don't try to set policies for other groups. We merely give them the space they have a right to. That's our job . . . to let students know what's going on around here.

With that introduction we print the following letter from Ray Robb, president of the Engineering School Council:

TO THE EDITOR: The annual Sliderule Ball will be held March 15 with dancing from 8 to 12. Claude Thornhill will preside on the band stand.

To make the dance available to all on the Campus, the dance will be semi-formal, eliminating the need of a tuxedo. The price of tickets will range between three and four dollars and we recommend no corsages, to eliminate any unnecessary expenses.

Ray Robb,  
Pres. Eng. School Council.  
Herb Locke,  
Penn State Engineer.

### Mixed Visiting Hours

TO THE EDITOR: Why can't a fellow visit a girl and vice versa at the College infirmary? We're pretty lucky to have a College Health Service with the privilege of spending a week at the infirmary free of charge; but do we have to pay for that right by surrendering the rights held by non-students to visit whomever they please?

—Marvin Sclan

## Collegian Gazette

All calendar items must be in at the Daily Collegian office by 4:30 p.m. on the day preceding publication.

### Tuesday, Feb. 11

- OUTING CLUB meeting, 2 White Hall, 6:45 o'clock.
- BADMINTON Club meeting, White Hall gym, 7 o'clock.
- ASSOCIATION OF FRATERNITY Counselors, 417 Old Main, 7:15 o'clock.
- PERSHING RIFLES Society meeting, 3 Carnegie Hall, 7 o'clock.
- PANHHELLENIC COUNCIL Meeting, 418 Old Main, 7 o'clock.
- PENN STATE Flying Club meeting, 110 Home Economics, 7:30 o'clock. Movies will be shown.
- PENN STATE Club business meeting, 312 Old Main, 7 o'clock.
- MILITARY BALL Committee, 105 Carnegie Hall, 7 o'clock.
- THETA SIGMA PHI meeting, 24 Atherton Hall, 6:30 o'clock.
- CRITIQUE Editorial staff meeting, 5 Carnegie Hall, 6:30 o'clock.
- PENN STATE Bridge Club, 401 Old Main, 7:30 o'clock.

### College Health Service

Admitted to infirmary Saturday: Shirley Smith, Margaret Seybert.  
Admitted Sunday: John Ritohey.  
Admitted yesterday: Rita Cota, John Gearhart, John Irwin, Paul Masterson, Nevin Miller, Carl Sherman.  
Discharged yesterday: Shirley Smith.  
Discharged to Centre County Hospital yesterday: Nevin Miller.

### College Placement Service

Mr. W. J. Riley of the Westvaco Chlorine Products Corporation will be on the campus, Thursday, Feb. 27, to interview eighth semester chem eng, chem, ME, EE men, and Ph.D. candidates in organic chem. Arrangements for interviews should be made at once in 204 Old Main.

## Letters

### 'Neatest Trick' Department

TO THE EDITOR: Credit for the "neatest trick of the year" goes to Registrar William S. Hoffman for his orders to not have the transcripts copied for those students who allegedly have an unpaid bill at the Bursar's Office.

This decision was, I am sure, made on a sound enough assumption: that those people who owed the College were probably rascals, rogues, and scoundrels and the only way to make them cough up was to hold over their heads the threat of not being issued the previous semester's marks and be thus barred from registering until each case could be straightened out in the usual confused manner.

For the unfortunate minority who either had paid their bills without duress, or who had never contracted any but managed somehow to get on the list, I presume he reasoned that if given half a chance they too would turn into rascals and it was better to teach them a lesson before they fell into sin.

Fortunately for many of us, we had gotten used to this type of "Olive Drab" rationalization in the past years; but as I heard one student say, "I did kinda hope people would be different on the outside."

Allow me to say in closing that, in all my contacts with the Registrar's office, I've received only a satchel full of snide remarks punctuated with utter obfuscation. I want this letter to be interpreted not as being any future cause of bad feeling between Mr. Hoffman and myself—since that already exists in an impersonal way—but as a result of the system he has promulgated and ordered carried out.

—Thomas F. Irvine, Jr.

● Bursar Clark (a good Joe, who runs one of the most efficient offices on this campus, in our estimation) asks that he be given credit for the idea. According to Clark, one-half of one percent of the student body always holds out on paying bills. There was no such trouble this time.

As to contacts with the Registrar's office, Mr. Irvine and others might be interested in knowing that they do have some very understanding people working there. Best procedure to follow is to speak to no one as you enter; rather you should stalk down the counter, until opposite the desk occupied by Mrs. Furst. In four years of battling red tape, and hundreds of trips to that office, she has always been most sympathetic and understanding. Mr. Stewart is another understanding worker.

### Book Exchange

TO THE EDITOR: The facts that many students have commented on high prices in State College, that many students work for extra money, and that ex-GI allotments don't stretch far enough would certainly lead one to believe that students would take advantage of an opportunity to reduce their expenditures.

This opportunity avails itself at the beginning of each semester in the form of the Student Book Exchange.

Monday morning, when the bookstores downtown were jammed, there were, when I walked in, exactly two students in the Book Exchange.

The exchange benefits the students in two ways. It enables them to buy books cheaper, and allows them to get more money for the books they sell. In other words, the profit usually made by the bookstores through the purchase and sale of used books is distributed among the students.

Ex-GI's may feel that since the government is paying for the books they might as well get new ones at the bookstore. If they take that attitude, who do they expect will buy their used books when they try to sell them?

Aside from that, most of the books at the exchange are in excellent condition.

If, at the beginning of a semester, you haven't seen posters telling where the exchange is located, ask at the Student Union desk. This semester, the location is 401 Old Main.

Let's patronize the Student Book Exchange. "Buy someone else's book, and someone will buy yours."

—Name Withheld

## Open Spaces

Penn State is bursting at the seams. Twelve to fifteen thousand students is the expected enrollment in four or five years. A huge building program is underway with a ten million and possibly fifteen million dollar budget covering the erection costs of a great educational plant. Penn State will be a bigger Penn State.

And it will be a better Penn State, too. With increased enrollment, competition in scholarship and activities will be keen with better general leadership and ability resulting. With additional buildings, there will be more facilities for wider and more practical instruction.

Now, the Board of Trustees is considering changing our name to Pennsylvania State University and adding law and medical schools. A new business school has been advocated.

Penn State is coming into its own. But, the proposed location of the new facilities precludes the maintenance of our Penn State campus. The campus is being taken away from us. With buildings planned for, practically all the present beautiful, open, grassy areas between Engineering, Ag Hill, Rec Hall, and Atherton Hall, Penn State might just as well be located in the center of a vast, dirty city.

Many of us enrolled at Penn State because we wanted the college town and spacious campus atmosphere with its free, unhurried life. We want to keep that atmosphere as far as it is possible.

Therefore, build on the golf course, clear out Hort woods, add buildings behind Ag Hill or in the spacious fields beyond Pollock Circle and Windcrest. Run buses, if necessary, between the scattered buildings, but let us have our spacious campus, with its trees, its grass, its natural beauty.

—Richard Sarge

# O'Brien Plugs Oratory Value

Oratory has profoundly influenced the course of world history time and again, Prof. Joseph F. O'Brien, acting head of the College speech department and adviser to the men's debate team, said today.

In discussing the power of speech as a social force, O'Brien cited Winston Churchill's address at Dunkerque, which he considers the turning point of World War II.

In this dynamic speech, the British prime minister renewed the waning confidence of our Allies who were on the brink of defeat and incited them to shove back the enemy from their front doors. "Churchill is the world's greatest orator today," O'Brien declared.

Professor O'Brien, who was recently appointed to a committee of the Speech Association of America, will help to prepare, solicit and edit articles analyzing the role of discussion in the formation of public opinion. Ohio State, Northwestern, Wisconsin, Oberlin and Syracuse are other institutions represented on the committee. Articles prepared by them are printed in the Public Opinion Quarterly and later in book form.

The College debate team under O'Brien's leadership has become one of the most successful varsity groups on campus. Its greatest season to date was '44-'45 when it emerged victorious in 25 out of 29 encounters with opponents like Navy, Pitt, Seton Hill and West Point.

## THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Successor to the Free Lance, est. 1877.

Published Tuesday through Friday mornings during the College year by the staff of the Daily Collegian of the Pennsylvania State College. Entered as second class matter July 5, 1934, at the State College, Pa., Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. \$2.50 a semester \$4.00 the school year.

Represented for national advertising by National Advertising Service, Madison Ave., New York, N.Y., Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco.

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