

With the Editor

Skull and Bones and Parmi Nous, both upper-class honoraries, have tapped 46 of what are supposed to be the outstanding male students on campus. The honor and recognition granted for outstanding contributions to the welfare of Penn State is justifiable but why must it stop there?

Before the war, the hat societies justified their existence by ushering at various events, forming an organized cheering section at athletic contests, and enforcing freshman regulations. Now that there are no freshmen on campus, nobody is impressed by the sight of the hat. It has been relegated for duty only on rainy days. Even the slogan "hat men chew their toenails" has died along with the other traditions.

By their very nature and composition the honorary societies, of which there are eight, are capable of performing a great many services to Penn State. So far this semester only Mortar Board, national honor society for senior women, has made any definite contribution to the general welfare of the College. At the

present time the group is conducting a carnival, the proceeds of which will go to a scholarship fund.

And what do the members of the societies get for their initiation fee? Usually, all they get is a hat, a key, a banquet and an intangible item called fellowship. Soon as the initiation is completed new members will be entrusted with the problem of carrying on whatever work they are supposed to do during the coming school year.

We could suggest a great many services that could be accomplished by the societies. As a start they could entertain visiting athletic teams and other guests and speakers at the College. They could conduct campaigns and solicit funds for such worthwhile causes as the cancer drive and the World Student Service Fund. They could even transform the tradition of freshman hazing into a period of orientation for the incoming sophomores.

It is up to the new members to see to it that their societies develop a program of service and thereby justify the existence of the honoraries.

Repairs Needed

Every semester there is an appeal on the part of typing students and teachers for better machines, or for proper repair made on those now in use in the Typing Lab.

The students point out, and properly so, that they pay a fee of \$10, which is earmarked for maintenance of the typewriters, and that in many cases repairs are badly needed, but seldom made.

The Grounds and Buildings department is responsible for seeing to it that the machines are kept in order. They haven't been doing too good a job, and as a result, typewriters are suffering. The typewriters in the Journalism aren't in the best of repair either.

Maybe shouldn't charge the \$10 fee from now on, and then students could save and buy one of their own. —LGF.

First Come, First Serve

The advance spring sale of tickets for next season's Artists' Course Series will be conducted from May 22 through June 10. There are good reasons why, if you're interested in attending the series, you should plan on purchasing your tickets this semester.

The main feature of next year's series is the two night performances which all artists will give. Then too, students and townspeople will see and hear what will probably be the most impressive group of star performers ever to appear on the campus.

The advance sale will do much to eliminate the long hours of waiting in line which was mandatory in the past. The tickets will be sold by mail during the advance sale campaign, and "first come, first served" will be strictly adhered to.

For those who will fail to take advantage of the sale by mail, there will be another opportunity to purchase tickets in the fall. However, the fall sale means standing in line for tickets, and it is likely that by then, the choice seats will be taken.

Beginning in the fall, the number of available seats for any type of performance in Schwab auditorium will be less than it is now. During the summer the building will undergo a redecoration of the interior, and the plans call for removing some rows of seats. The new seating capacity will be a little more than 1200.

With approximately a thousand newcomers to the campus, the lines will be bigger than ever. The advance sale is the answer to your problem. —LGF.

Letters - From the Editor's Mailbox

In Defense of Mr. Kecker

TO THE EDITOR: In Wednesday's Collegian under letters to the Editor there was an interesting comment concerning the choosing of valedictorian for the graduating senior class. This letter stated that the long-standing custom of choosing the person to fill this position has given way to a combination of political pull and vested self-interest. This is completely false.

As in past years a committee composed of the head of the speech department, the Class Day chairman and the President of the Senior Class compiled a list of those eligible for the position of valedictorian. Eligibility was based on scholarship, speaking ability, and contributions to Penn State through extra-curricular activities.

This year this committee functioned and made up a list of several graduating seniors. All of them ranked in the top one-fortieth of the class, and the one ultimately picked was one of the top five of the entire graduating class of more than 1000.

In the absence of the Class Day chairman, Professor O'Brien and I discussed the qualifications of the several possible candidates, including those of the Class Day chairman. It

seemed to us that the person later chosen had superior qualifications in that not only did he rank in the top five in scholastic ability, and holds membership in Phi Beta Kappa, but was known to be outstanding in speaking ability and contributions to the College as well.

Contrary to what was said in the letter, I, as Senior Class President, was charged with making the final decision.

For the above reasons, Mr. O'Brien and I feel that the person chosen for valedictorian was the one most worthy of the honor.

—Charles Pfelegor
Senior Class President

Reinforcements!

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Pfelegor's account of the procedure used in the selection of the valedictorian is entirely correct. It should be emphasized that discussion of the candidacy of the individual chosen took place in his absence between Mr. Pfelegor and myself.

—Joseph F. O'Brien

Danger Ahead!

TO THE EDITOR: We are losing one by one the liberties and rights which we have long taken for granted, but which we have never fully enjoyed. Our Constitution, as it is, is a far, and tragic, cry from its prototype. The Bill of Rights has been a farce for years. Many of its provisions have no counterparts in many states, and some are not and have not been practiced by the Federal government.

Of course, a constitution must be flexible, but by flexible we do mean malleable. And now the fourth amendment has been, in effect, repealed by the recent Supreme Court decision. And the labor force which creates the nation's wealth and constitutes the larger part of the voting population, is about to be politically emasculated.

One of the few bright spots amid the turmoil, to my way of thinking, was the recent advent of The Progressive Citizens of America. The PCA which has as one of its chief functions the political education of the public, has a chapter in State College, and Young PCA, the collegiate group, is in the process of petitioning for its charter.

We often say that Germany lost its freedom because the people had no political experience. And yet we have the same condition here, with the exception of machine politicians and their followers.

We like to think that we have a political democracy here. We like to talk and shed dramatic tears over how our forefathers fought so hard for freedom.

I hope to live to see the day when we are NO LONGER in danger of losing that freedom through apathy and political inaction.

—William Bond Gould

Editorials and features in The Collegian reflect the opinions of the writer. They make no claim to represent student or University opinion. All unsigned editorials are by the editor.

Artists Series—

(Continued from page one)

Fall ticket sale, said Dr. Marquardt, when the remaining seats will be placed on sale to the public.

Patrons may indicate seats desired and a choice of first or second night performances, under the new plan. The committee requests that persons ordering low-priced seats also state whether they will accept other seats, since only 189 low-priced seats will be available, following the re-odelling of Schwab Auditorium.

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Geiger Bowling Victor

Anita Geiger came out champion in the WRA all-college bowling tournament by topping Georgianna Holt 144-136 in the finals recently.

Sixteen women took part in the competition which was held on the White Hall bowling alleys.

A. V. C.s

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Collegian Gazette

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

Thursday, May 15

ALL-COLLEGE CABINET BANQUET, State College Hotel, 6 o'clock.

FROTH BUSINESS STAFF meeting, 8 Carnegie Hall, 6:30 o'clock.

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL meeting for candidates and sophomores, 8 Carnegie Hall, 6:45 o'clock.

COLLEGIAN ADVERTISING meeting for candidates, sophomore and junior board, 8 Carnegie Hall, 7 o'clock.

SWIM CLUB meeting, White Hall, 7 o'clock.

BOWLING CLUB meeting, White Hall, 7 o'clock.

BRIDGE CLUB tournament, 405 Old Main, 7:30 o'clock.

College Health Service

Discharged from the infirmary Wednesday: Homer Haaf.

College Placement Service

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE-PEET CO., May 20, 8th sem. men in ME, IE, and CE. Men for summer work in ME and CE.

SPERRY GYROSCOPE CO., May 20, 8th sem. men in EE, Phy., ME, and AE.

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE CO., May 20 and 21, 8th sem. men in C & F and A & L.