

With the Editor

When President Ralph Dorn Hetzel was interred in the Centre County Memorial Cemetery yesterday the students of Penn State lost a good friend.

Leading educators in the nation mourned the loss of a great man in their field; College faculty members and administrative personnel felt deeply the loss of a greatly valued and admired associate; but, the students lost one of the few men in the educational world who believed in the right and ability of students to govern themselves.

Not only did Dr. Hetzel believe that college students are mature enough to handle their own affairs, but he believed that students should be permitted a voice in the actual operation of the educational plant.

It was through his encouragement that Penn State established its present form of student government which has been admired and copied by many colleges and universities in the country.

Students at the College do not realize the freedom enjoyed here until notes are compared with students at other schools. While at the National Student Association Convention in Wisconsin last month, the Penn State delegation was amazed to find that a great number of student bodies have no independent government and are dominated entirely by the administrations.

The Daily Collegian is especially grateful to "Prexy's" firm belief in the independence and freedom of a campus newspaper. It was through his efforts that Collegian is entirely free of censorship and direction from the administration.

As an example of "Prexy's" overwhelming desire to encourage student participation in the affairs of the College, two days before he went to Johns Hopkins Hospital for an operation on his spine, he called the All-College President and the Editor of the Daily Collegian to his home and discussed in great detail the forthcoming operations of the College.

He stressed the necessity of informing student leaders of what was going on so that they would be able to deal with the administration in his absence. He discussed in minute detail the importance of setting up a student governing board to determine policy for the forthcoming Student Union Building.

As an example of his intense feeling for the need of a Student Union, there has never been a campaign for this purpose that he has not been devoutly interested in. It was his ardent desire to see the Union building materialize, and he encouraged the progress of the project in every way that he could.

Upon his recommendation the current Student Union committee, composed of administrative officials and student leaders, was formed. It was his expressed desire that students be members of this committee.

Before the two campus leaders left his home, the problems of expansion of the College were brought out with emphasis again placed on student responsibility.

The need for a printing plant for Collegian was discussed, with the "Prexy" concurring that now was the time to start drawing up the plans.

Student leaders sometimes wondered why Dr. Hetzel displayed such enthusiastic zeal in stressing student rights.

Perhaps some of his own background while an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin can explain it.

He edited the campus newspaper, managed the college humor magazine, captained the freshman crew, and was president of his sophomore, junior, and senior classes. In addition he was a member of the debate team. As valedictorian of his class he delivered a speech on how the faculty should carry on with the institution of higher learning, an occasion which he recalled as somewhat inglorious.

With experience in such diversified student functions as government and publications it is no wonder that Dr. Hetzel was able to gain a keen insight into student problems.

One thing that bothered him in the recent years of the College's expansion was his inability to get together with the students as often as he wanted to. Still, he invariably said hello to everyone he met on campus.

In 1926, while president at New Hampshire University, he read an editorial in the Collegian which stated that although the trustees could appoint a president of the College, only the students could ever bestow upon him the title of "Prexy."

He felt that his success at Penn State was dependent not only upon his academic achievements, but upon his ability to win the loyalty and friendship of the student body. And so, it wasn't very long before a student delegation came to his office and escorted him to the auditorium where he was given the official title of "Prexy." He has often stated that this simple honor meant more to him than all his honorary degrees.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to know "Prexy" feel a deep personal loss.

But for the students of Penn State who benefited by the efforts of President Hetzel, the loss is that of a great man.

Engineers Confer Here on Curricula

Engineers from five colleges will gather at the College on Friday and Saturday for the annual meeting of the Allegheny Section, American Society of Engineering Education.

C. E. Bullinger, head of the department of industrial engineering and chairman of the Allegheny Section, will preside at the opening session Friday afternoon. Following an address of welcome by Dr. H. P. Hammond, dean of the School of Engineering, the section will hold its annual business meeting.

Dr. M. A. Edwards, of the General Electric Co., will speak on "Characteristics of Curricula Designed to Train Engineering Students for Research," and a departmental roundtable discussion will close the afternoon session.

Dr. C. E. MacQuigg, president of the American Society for Engineering Education and dean of engineering at Ohio State University, will speak at a dinner meeting Friday evening.

Speakers on Saturday morning are W. A. Koehler, head of the department of chemical engineering at West Virginia University; Dr. Eric A. Walker, director of the Ordnance Research Laboratory and head of the department of electrical engineering at the College; and R. H. Hussey, of the department of industrial engineering at the Col-

lege and business manager of the Ordnance Research Laboratory. An inspection trip of the Ordnance Research Laboratory will conclude the conference at noon Saturday.

Colleges and universities that are members of the Allegheny Section are the University of West Virginia, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Bucknell University, and the Pennsylvania State College.

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.

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; \$4.25 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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College Calendar

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

Tuesday, October 7

CWENS meeting, WSGA Room, White Hall, 6:15 p.m.

FROTH EDITORIAL candidate meeting, Froth Office, 7 p.m.

WRA BRIDGE Club, White Hall, 7 p.m.

WRA FENCING Club, White Hall, 7 p.m.

TAU BETA PI meeting, 107 Main Engineering, 7:30 p.m.

PENN STATE GRANGE meeting, 100 Horticulture, 8 p.m.

At the Movies

Cathaum: "The Egg and I," Claudette Colbert, Fred MacMurray.

State: "Great Expectations," John Mills, Valerie Hobson.

Nittany: "Miracle on 34th Street," Maureen O'Hara, John Payne.

A. V. C.
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