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For Absentee Voting

About the middle of every October, as regularly as clock-work, many civic-minded Penn State students get very much excited, and rightly so, because they are denied sufficient opportunity to participate in local, state and national elections.

REFUSAL OF THE COLLEGE SENATE to suspend classes for the "first Tuesday after the first Monday" every other year, gives the impression that that august body does not attach sufficient importance to the most fundamental act of democratic citizenship.

Yet the previously-mentioned agitation is, we feel, as mis-directed and as poorly-timed as its purpose is justifiable.

Considerable time, study, energy and argument are consumed in the preparation of the College calendar. Students should not expect it to be changed on a moment's notice, even for such a worthwhile cause.

HOWEVER, THE GRANTING of an election day "holiday" is, at best, only a poor remedy for a grievous omission from the Pennsylvania election laws. That is, a provision for absentee voting by college and university students.

Higher education is becoming more and more prominent on the American scene; college students and graduates should be among the leaders in civic enlightenment and activity.

When students are exposed to a situation most conducive to awareness about political issues, and when they are learning the theory of representative government, they should be encouraged to participate in the practicalum of voting.

POLITICALLY-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS should seize this opportunity to work for a correction of this fault. Now is the proper time, while the legislature is in session. Yet the task will probably be a long-range one, so the enthusiasm should not lag in June.

Two groups immediately come to mind as probably having an abiding interest in the problem. Both have the advantage of affiliation with numerous similar groups throughout the state.

They are the Intercollegiate Conference on Government and National Student Association. They may count on support from us, should they favor inaugurating a movement to adopt absentee voting in Pennsylvania.

Silence Not Golden

It is not customary for a newspaperman to publicly criticize the editorial opinion of an associate, but it is only fitting and proper that someone should take exception to the editorial "Costly Cheering" by George Vadasz in Tuesday's Collegian.

One does not doubt Mr. Vadasz's sincerity in writing the editorial. He expressed himself as a true sportsman throughout, but what we contest is the EIBA ruling concerning cheering at college boxing performances.

I do not believe in unsportsmanlike conduct and do not object to clauses in the rules regarding sportsmanship. But I firmly believe that it is against all laws of human nature to enforce a rule against the practice of cheering at any sporting event.

Would the EIBA officials defeat the purpose—or at least, one of the purposes—of intercollegiate sports by enforcing this rule which in effect curtails our school spirit? Everyone knows that a good, healthy cheer is a feature of the sporting atmosphere. Why defeat this stimulating device?

It is furthermore my belief that if Mr. Taylor were attending a boxing meet at which he were not officiating, he, too, would be cheering. I am not condemning Mr. Taylor's action—as an official he should abide by the rules—but I cannot condone the shortsightedness of the EIBA officials who enacted such a rule on silence.

After all, college students are human—or at least, allegedly so. I would be among the first to lead a campaign to abolish—or at least, amend—the EIBA rule against cheering. Such a campaign would be worthwhile in the light of some petty campaigns that the College has heretofore catered to.

—Ray Benter.

The Daily Collegian

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'Ah, THERE You Are, Deah boy!'



Know Your College

I. Founding, Purpose

As the land-grant college of Pennsylvania, Penn State's primary purpose is to serve the people and interests of the Commonwealth and Nation.

PRIOR TO THE 1850's most higher education was furnished by the classical colleges, with their emphasis on Greek and Latin and neglect of practical studies, such as the sciences and agriculture.

For the lawyers, physicians and ministers who comprised the bulk of the "educated elite" in that era, this traditional liberal arts training was adequate and satisfactory.

But with the industrial movement in the state came a rising clamor for technical training and vocational education, to be made available to the common man.

BECAUSE THIS REFORM MOVEMENT was, as usual, resisted by the classical colleges, a small group of pioneering Pennsylvanians established, in 1855, the Farmers' High School, "an Institution in which youth may be educated so as to fit them for the livelihood of a farmer."

In 1862, by the Morrill Land-Grant Act, the federal government offered public lands to the states for the establishment of colleges promoting "the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

The endowment was given to the Farmers' High School the following year by the Pennsylvania Legislature, which "pledged the faith of the State . . . to carry the same into effect."

MEANWHILE, ITS NAME HAD BEEN CHANGED to The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, in recognition of its true character, and in anticipation of the passage of the Morrill Act, which had been actively supported by friends of the infant College.

From the time of its birth as one of the first of the Land-Grant colleges, Penn State's purpose has been to meet the changing educational needs of everyday living.

It pioneered the development of experimental farms; offered the first systematic curricula in engineering, mining and metallurgy; early carried the resources of the College to every part of the State by means of an extension service.

ITS RESEARCH STAFFS continually make significant contributions to the foundations of modern technology; its off-campus instruction for freshmen, under over-crowded post-war conditions, is still unique.

Much of the philosophy expressed by President George W. Atherton in his inaugural address has become a part of the solid and broad foundation of the Penn State we know today.

He thought that changing conditions in life should be matched by changes in education, and sought to equalize and integrate the branches of learning related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, as well as providing a liberal education for the industrial classes.

ACCORDING TO DR. ATHERTON'S CONCEPTION of the College's destiny, it was to become a great State university, reaching out in all directions to render the greatest possible educational service to the people of the Commonwealth.

In the steady progress toward realization of this dream, the College has expanded the scope of its services both horizontally and vertically. Thus more citizens of the State have received direct benefits from Colleges activities, which have continuously increased in diversity and scope.

That, after all, is the purpose of Penn State.

Very Brief

• With Monday being the day that old Dan'l Cupid runs amok, we wonder whether he'll head for the marriage classes. . . . Look out, Dr. Adams and the School of Home Economics. You will be having competition!

The Safety Valve

Letters to the editor must be signed for inclusion in the Safety Valve, although names will be withheld on request. Telephone numbers and addresses must be included to facilitate verification of authenticity of signatures. Letters exceeding 200 words in length may be cut when required by space limitations.

'Phony Idealism'

TO THE EDITOR: Re Tuesday's editorial, "Costly Cheering":

Paul Gallico once called American colleges "the last stronghold of hypocrisy." The Intercollegiate Boxing Association rule forbidding applause or cheering during progress of a round seems to bear out this contention.

You can dress up the managers in tuxes, introduce the contestants as "Mr.," and call it "college boxing," but basically it's still a brawl in which two men are out to clobber each other as often and as hard as possible.

Instead of berating the "juvenile minded" students who committed the unpardonable sin of cheering for their favorites, why don't the editorialists exert some pressure on the EIBA to have this inane rule changed?

It's just possible that the "already shaky collegiate boxing realm" is so because of its phony idealism.

—Bill Welsh.

Disapprove Discrimination

TO THE EDITOR: Believing that the denial of necessary personal services to individuals on grounds of color is a violation of the Christian principle of the brotherhood of man and the democratic principle of equality, the members of the State College Roger Williams Fellowship (Baptist youth group) hereby express their disapproval of the existing policy of racial discrimination in local barber shops.

—John W. Bacon, President.
 —Ira V. Brown, Vice-President.
 —Shirley Robinson, Secretary.
 —Robert H. Eads, Adviser.

Collegian Gazette

Brief notices of meetings and other events must be submitted to The Daily Collegian office in Carnegie Hall by 2 p.m. of the day before the issue in which it is desired to appear.

Friday, February 11 College Hospital

Admitted Wednesday: Taylor Potter, Ruth Melamed, Edward Smucker.
 Discharged Thursday: Ida Greenberg.

College Placement

Combustion Engineering Co., February 11, eighth semester in ME.
 Bethlehem Steel Co., March 14 and 15, eighth semester in ME, EE, IE, CE, ChE, MEng, Met, Cer. Report to 204 Old Main to fill out preliminary application form.

General Motors Corp., February 21 and 22, eighth semester candidates for B.S. Degrees in ChE, ME, EE, IE, Met, CF. M.S. candidates in Phys, ME, EE, IE, ChE. Ph.D. candidates in Phys. Men with at least a 2.0 average completing junior year in June 1949, men who graduate in June, but plan to go on with graduate work, men who are now doing graduate work and who are candidates for M.S. degrees in 1950, for Summer Employment ME, EE, ChE, Met.

SKF Industries, Inc., February 23, to interview graduates for training in ME.

Koppers Company, February 24 and 25, June grads in ME, IE, CE, Chem Eng, Chem.

Humble Oil & Refining Co., February 22, June grads with Ph.D., M.S., or B.S. degrees from Chem Eng, Chem.

RCA, February 21 and 22, eighth semester students with degrees in ME, Physics, and EE.

Babcock & Wilcox Co., February 23, eighth semester students with degrees in ME, IE, Chem Eng, Physics, CE, Metallurgy, Fuel Tech.

At the Movies

CATHAUM—Words and Music.
 STATE—Hills of Home.
 NITTANY—Forever Amber.

Edit Briefs

Add Power of the Press: Some time ago, a Daily Collegian edit brief decried the serving of cocktails (grape juice and ginger-ale) in Atherton Hall. Recent investigation shows that while the same beverage is being served Sunday noon, it is no longer called a cocktail. (How temperate can you get?)

The government is trying to effect a divorce between the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and its manufacturing subsidiary, Western Electric Corporation. Such a breakup might mean lower telephone rates, as Attorney General Clarke says, but we'll bet it will take more than this to change the rules governing the use of dormitory phones.

The average age of Penn State seniors tops that of their 1946 counterparts by nine months. But there's a silver lining—the older they are, the sooner they'll be eligible for social security benefits.

Word that McElwain Hall will not open until September must have been a blow to long-suffering men students who had hoped that the four-to-one ratio would be eased a bit by the opening of a new women's dorm this spring. That ratio, incidentally, is inversely proportional to masculine croon.