

Dorm Policy

Action by All-College Cabinet in decisively backing "to the hilt" aims of its dorm committee puts more strength in a broad student request that assignments for west dorms be on a seniority basis. Cabinet has crystallized student sentiment that sprouted from the College's decision to house 1,000 freshmen and 650 upperclassmen in the new dorm—Tri-dorm area next fall.

Prime purpose of College plans to house the 1,000 freshmen entirely in the west dorm "palaces" is to slice a surprisingly high percentage of Penn State flunk-outs in the freshman year. In the past, 30 per cent of freshmen—whether on campus or off—have been dropped, for one reason or another, after their second semester.

On the proved theory that most students who survive the rigors of their frosh year will finish school, the College reasons that providing best available surroundings for Johnny Frosh would appreciably reduce the number of first-year flunk-outs. This would ultimately help combat a startling casualty rate which has from one-half to two-thirds of all Penn State freshman students dropping out before their class graduates four years later.

HOWEVER STARTLING this may seem, Penn State's mortality rate is still less than that of most accredited colleges. Many enroll freshmen on a wholesale and less select basis, collect their tuition and flunk out mobs. Penn State is near the top, nationally, in number of students who "make the grade." Girls, especially, who enter Penn State are said to have the best chance of any in accredited U.S. colleges to graduate. This is due directly to screening and admittance policy in effect here.

And the College is out to improve this. Put Johnny Frosh in the "palace" where he enjoys the best living conveniences on campus, establish an effective student counselor system in which the counselors live together with the frosh, and show the frosh not only how to study correctly but how to eat gracefully and how to dress and tie a Windsor.

This is the present College program for 1,000 freshman men who'll be on campus next fall, and it's geared toward making good Penn Staters out of frosh, and enhancing chances of their "sticking it out."

ON THE OTHER SIDE are some facets of this program pointed out by the dorm committee and other student groups—facets and disadvantages that have evoked a steady student grumbling like that of a wagon on a corduroy road.

First, we believe most students on campus support the assertion that counseling of frosh can be just as effective in the less desirable surrounding of Splinterville, i.e. Nittany-Pollock, as in the "palaces" now under construction. As a corollary of this, most students maintain that the important thing is keeping all the Johnny Froshes in a group, not necessarily in the best available dorms.

SECOND, THERE IS the shock that would be a natural concomitant to moving from sumptuous "palaces" to less-sumptuous Splinterville when Johnny Froshes become sophomores.

THIRD, THERE'S AN assertion by upperclassmen — many call it a right — that they should hold priority on the "palaces." They maintain that the new west dorms should be something to work up from Splinterville — something to be apportioned on a strict seniority basis of seniors first, juniors second and sophs third.

It seems ironical, but what appears as support for this last-named student view is present College policy in Tri-dorms of granting top priority to men who are seniors and have lived in Nittany-Pollock. Further support is inherent in College policy on girls' housing—where senior coeds have first choice for places in modern Simmons and McElwain Halls.

Our ground for assuming this three-pronged dorm attitude of most of the student body is lodged not in any poll of students—a gigantic task, but is part and parcel of what representatives of student groups—Nittany-Pollock Councils, Association of Independent Men, Interfraternity Council, political parties and others—have reported.

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings inclusive 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.

Editor: Tom Morgan Business Manager: Marlin A. Weaver

Little Man On Campus

by Bibler



"He won't apologize for lecturing overtime today!"

A Bonn Mot

If The 48 States Rotated Presidents

The Collegian Washington Bureau has forwarded Tass a report of the utmost gravity. There is a rumor prevalent in our nation's capital that a certain lobby is putting strong pressure on Congress to adopt a 22nd amendment to the Constitution. The article proposed would substitute the organization's own method of choosing leaders for the system of nation-wide elections now in use.

THE NEW SET-UP, which the pressure group defends as being obviously the most democratic one possible, would have the Presidency rotated among the several states, one state being guaranteed of the office for one of its own favorite sons every 48th term, or, in other words, every 192nd year. Thus, claims the lobby, autocratic control could not center in one politically powerful region to the exclusion of the others.

Now, this proposal demands serious consideration before one follows his first instinct and bursts into uncontrollable laughter. Let us examine some of the obvious benefits of the rotational system of selecting a President.

First, it is quite evident that some of our truly great statesmen, kept down through misdirected public opinion, would have their well-earned day in office. Thus the sterling patriot John Rankin, who certainly would be the Mississippi choice, would have a chance to put into practice on a national level some of his progressive measures toward solution of racial problems. He would be free also to carry out his laudable purpose of expelling Albert Einstein, a Red radical foreigner if there ever was one, from our fair democracy.

AND WHEN IT CAME Ohio's turn, that bulwark of Americanism, that most intelligent of internationalists, Robert A. Taft (he of the late lamented Four Leaf Clover) would get his chance at bat. Denied access to the highest of posts by the machinations of communist elements in the Republican party in 1948, he could, under the new setup, rise to his deserved position in national and world affairs.

New York would have its day, or rather its four years, and its well known racket-buster and statesman Tom Dewey would assume the post he was recently steamrollered out of by the unfair election practices of some 50 million Americans. What a pity that Dewey's obvious choice for Secretary of Defense recently threw himself out of the window of a mental ward, when, had he been a bit more prudent, he might well have assumed the cabinet post.

Now, contrasted against the new plan's obvious advantages outlined above, there is a minor drawback in the serious difficulty in obtaining continuity of leadership it entails. Clearly, when the organization which has been guiding the nation's President through a four-year term must wait just under two centuries before it again assumes the reins, it stands in danger of losing some of its older, more experienced leaders in the interim. This problem must be carefully weighed before we enthusiastically encourage adoption of the proposed system.

BEFORE CLOSING, let us consider a corollary to the adoption of the Constitutional amendment. Sooner or later, the more enlightened states would come around to the new plan. The prospect brings to the mind of this Philadelphian that that city's beloved mayor from time immemorial, Bernard M. Samuel, would get his inning of guiding the Commonwealth ship of state.

For the benefit of any Pittsburghians or other outlanders who are not acquainted with this sterling leader of the masses, let us explain that this is the gentleman who has been digging multi-million dollar subway holes for many years and then neglecting to put subways in them, the gentleman under whose administration there has been a wholesale plundering of the public purse, with one single department getting away with two hundred grand, the gentleman who has given our home town more policemen and less protection per square citizen than any other American city. He would inevitably be the Philadelphia choice for governor.

This, then, is the project proposed by our nameless pressure group. You must judge it on its merits. Look hard; maybe you'll find one.

—BON BONN

Safety Valve . . .

Penn State Honor

TO THE EDITOR: In reply to your marvelously trite inquiry as to what the "Sweater Girl" contest is doing for Penn State honor and tradition: I say to you, p'shaw!

I mean really, what-the-hell has a mere contest for the general populace have to do with honor and tradition? (For that matter it may begin a new tradition). I can't say I see where the Collegian's humor has been so low. Or do you belong to that minority of snobs which still believes in the aesthetic beauty of culture.

May I ask Miss "Are You For Real-Girl," if you have visited any of our Broadway theaters of late. These so-called centers of dramatic culture are, according to your standards wallowing "in the proverbial gutter."

—Pete Twaddle

• Letter Cut

A Great Help

TO THE EDITOR: Let me take this opportunity to oppose Miss Lida Whitesel's letter in Wednesday's Collegian criticizing Miss Deanie Krebs' article of the play, "Time Is A Dream." Along with many of my buddies, I have found this article of great help in deciding whether or not to take my date to one of the plays.

And let me give Deanie Krebs a great big pat on the back for an honest, unslanted review of the play. Since she can have no motive whatever for slurring the play, one would come to the conclusion that the report is as honest as it could be.

In conclusion, let me say that a shiny car is no good without a good motor, and fine stage settings without good acting are no good either. Keep up the good work, Collegian and Miss Krebs!

—Arthur P. Munson

I Protest

TO THE EDITOR: With respect to the All-College Cabinet decision to adopt the new ring design, I would like to voice my protest! It is the obligation and duty of all the representatives on Cabinet to express the opinions of their constituents. Furthermore, the only way in which these representatives can feel confident in upholding their convictions is for the members of their organizations to tell them their wishes. The Cabinet arranged to hold their meeting in 121 Sparks on Tuesday for this purpose. Less than 30 students appeared when the seating capacity is over 200. This was an extremely poor showing for a student body when a tradition is about to be wrecked! I have drawn up a petition which, if successful, will cause this matter to be reopened.

This idea of throwing away a good tradition, incidentally, one of the few which are in full force, reflects the poor interest shown in traditions at Penn State. If we throw away this one, why not freshman customs? The student handbook gives an excellent definition of traditions on page 22.

For anyone who is interested in carrying on a fine Penn State tradition, I will be in the lobby of Old Main with my petition form, 2:10 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23.

—Jack Harris

Gazette

Thursday, February 23

WRA Badminton Club, White Hall Gym, 4 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE Organization, 207 CH, 6:45 p.m.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, Student Branch, 110 E.E., 7 p.m.

WRA Fencing, 1 White Hall, 7 p.m.

WRA Bowling Club, Beginners, White Hall Alleys, 7 p.m.

WRA Swimming Club, Advanced, White Hall Pool, 7:30 p.m.

AIM Council, 409 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.

PSCA Bible Study, 304 Old Main, 4 p.m.

PSCA Dancing Class, Armory, 6:45 p.m.

PSCA Cabinet, 304 Old Main, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Further information concerning interviews and job placements can be obtained in 112 Old Main.

The Ingersoll-Rand Co., Feb. 27, 28. June grads in ME, IE, MngE. Applicants must have 1.8 or better average.

Shell Oil Co., Mar. 6, 7. June MS and BS candidates in MngE and Petroleum and Natural Gas Refining, MS candidates in EE and ME, and PhD candidates in Phys.

Standard Oil Development Co., Feb. 27. MS and BS candidates in ChE who will graduate in June. Applicants must have 1.5 or better average.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Admitted Tuesday: Edward Shanken, Edward Teno, James A. Fulton, Sherie Rickel.

Admitted Wednesday: Suzanna Lou Rice, Doyle Homan, Vincent Salmon.

Discharged Wednesday: Rhoda Levine.

AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM—Blue Lagoon.

NITTANY—That Forsythe Woman.

STATE—Twelve O'Clock High.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Night Editor Deanie Krebs
Assistant Night Editor Joyce Moyer
Copy Editor John Dalbor

Assistants — Hal Kates, Jo Reish, Renee Filman, Paul Poorman, Julian Gordon

Advertising Manager Laura Mermelstein
Advertising Assistants — Herb Blough, Ed Singel, Winnie Wyant