

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.

Collegian editorials represent the viewpoints of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the newspaper. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

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VOL. 52 — No. 2

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Customs Purpose Is To Unify Frosh

Monday at 7 a.m. customs will start for some 2700 freshmen.

Last year when frosh returned to the campus en masse for the first time since the war, there was some doubt that a customs program could be reinstated. There were those who had strong doubts that such a program was worth re-establishing at all.

Even hard-bitten opponents of customs have altered their opinions as a result of the sensible manner in which the program was enforced last year. Customs in 1950 were not vicious. They welded together a freshman class as spirited as those of the traditional rah-rah days of college life. Customs were not silly and are still not silly.

However, what customs did not establish last year was that over the years viciousness would not become a part of the program. Whether viciousness will ever become a part of customs is a question which we who are now at Penn State must answer.

That answer must be no.

There is a tendency for those who have undergone customs at other colleges to have the attitude, "Now it's our turn, and are we going to let those frosh have it?" We hope that this shall not be the attitude of the present sophomore class, or of any other segment of the student population.

The purpose of customs, as it was ably stated by David Mutchler, Tribunal chairman, is not to humiliate the frosh. The purpose of customs is to acquaint them with Penn State, its campus, its songs and cheers, and its traditions. The purpose of customs is to mold the class into a solid unit.

None of these purposes can be accomplished by enforcing customs with an iron hand, by cracking the whip, by making the freshmen cower in the presence of upperclassmen.

As for the frosh, they would do well to abide by the regulations, for while customs will not be vicious, they will be enforced. And violators will be punished.

Customs can be a lot of good, clean fun, for both the frosh and the upperclassmen. So long as they are fun and remain clean they will be good. When they cease to retain these qualities they will be of no value to Penn State.

If and when that day should ever come, we would be the first to advocate that they be removed from the Penn State scene.

Frosh Eligible And Needed In All Sports

Penn State will not be represented by freshmen athletic teams this year as a result of a ruling by the Eastern Intercollegiate Conference declaring freshmen eligible for varsity sports this year.

The fact that Penn State will not have freshmen teams should not prevent the frosh from going out for the varsity sports. Since there are no frosh teams and consequently no frosh coaches, the varsity coaches are going to have to take a closer look at the freshmen athletes this year because they are the varsity players of the future.

In many of the varsity sports, the freshmen trying out will not be able to break into the starting lineup but working out with the varsity players give them needed experience for their next three years.

In other sports such as lacrosse, tennis, soccer, and track, a freshman who has competed in any one of those sports in high school stands a good chance of breaking into the lineup in his first year. In a sport such as lacrosse which is not widely played in high schools, freshmen without any experience whatsoever are encouraged to come out and learn the game. Better than 50 per cent of the players on Penn State's lacrosse team each year have never played lacrosse before coming to college.

Don't let the fact that there will be no frosh teams this year keep you freshmen from going out for the team. Penn State welcomes the freshman athlete!

—Ernie Moore

Men's Housing File Again in Operation

Thanks to the work of AIM representatives, a men's housing card will again be available for campus groups in the Dean of Men's office.

A new, revised card has been added to the registration procedure for the first time since 1948. Just why a valuable card such as the housing card was dropped is a mystery. The intervening years have proved that a complete file on campus, town, and fraternity men is needed for quick reference by campus groups. These groups have struggled through without the file until AIM, in cooperation with Interfraternity council, designed the card and set the system in motion last semester and this summer.

AIM, of course, will benefit directly from the card system. Now that a complete file of men living in town will be available again, AIM will be able to set up Town council in a matter of weeks instead of the two months it took Town council to organize last year.

Not only will AIM benefit, but the Campus Chest will be able to use the cards in making speedy pledge contacts. Also, a temporary telephone directory will be made from the cards as soon after registration as possible for use by telephone operators until the Student Directory is printed. Since the cards will be kept permanently in the dean of men's office, the dean of men and his staff will be able to make use of the cards in a variety of ways.

But the important thing is that every man on campus can be located in a matter of minutes by simply flipping through a file, months before the Student Directory will be available.

Thanks are due AIM and IFC and the other cooperating groups for giving their time and finances to re-establish the housing card which should never have been dropped in the first place.

Moylan Mills

Promise Fulfilled

Students returning to campus this past week might have been mildly surprised that only one of the West Dorms had been converted to housing women students.

Toward the close of last semester it had been announced that four of the West Dorms would be turned over to women in the fall. The explanation was that as a result of the world situation, the College planned to enroll a greater number of women than ever before in order to make up an expected drop in male enrollment.

At that time President Eisenhower stressed that the move had been taken with great reluctance and that the dorms would be returned to the men as soon as conditions would return to normal.

World conditions are far from normal, but because of the Selective Service regulations favorable to college students, male enrollment has not dropped as much as had been expected last spring.

The change would be temporary, President Eisenhower promised the students—and he has kept his promise. He has once again proved himself deserving of the title bestowed upon him last spring.

Milton S. Eisenhower is indeed Penn State's Prexy.

Active Government

Students who have been wondering just what the functions of student government on the Penn State campus are received part of the answer Wednesday night if they were alert.

The answer was in the form of the Starlight Dance, sponsored jointly by the Interfraternity Council, the Association of Independent Men, Leonides, and Panhellenic Council. Student government leaders, aware that there would be a lull in Orientation Week activities Wednesday night, quickly rounded up a band, and made the necessary arrangements—the result was a highly successful affair.

Tomorrow's Fun Night in Recreation Hall is also sponsored by student government.

These are only samplings of student government activity on the Penn State campus. The Book Exchange is a student government project, as is the drinking colloquy scheduled for later this semester, just to cite a few.

Penn State is proud of one of the nation's finest student governments. Good student government is a Penn State tradition. It is a tradition that can be maintained only by continued student interest and support.

Fair Prices at BX

The Book Exchange, a project of All-College Cabinet, is a non-profit, student-operated agency. Profits at the end of the year are returned to the students.

The normal BX markup on sales is 40 per cent. This markup is necessary since the BX is not permitted to offer "unfair" competition to local merchants. Twenty per cent of the markup goes toward meeting the costs of operation. The remaining 20 per cent is returned to students.

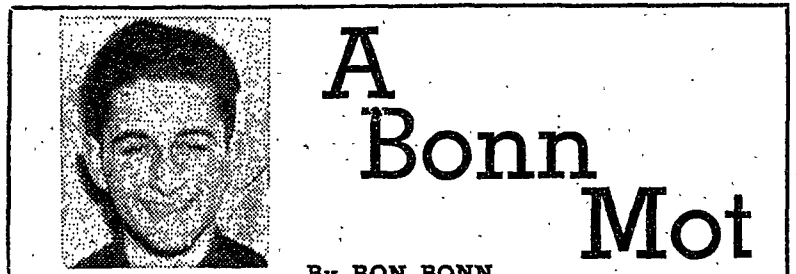
In the case of customs, however, the only markup, and it is a small one, is to cover costs. The frosh can be assured they are not being taken for a ride when they purchase their customs.

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"By the time they get to me they don't know WHAT they're enrolling in."



By RON BONN

Well, the lean years are over, the drought is past, and there is one entire, healthy American coed for every two and one-half men on the Penn State campus.

Women are roving the campus in predatory bands, trapping unwary males in shadowy spaces behind obscure buildings. Certain fraternity men are driving about in large automobiles, permitting girls to whistle at them. Male attendance at the Psych Clinic has dwindled to almost zero, while hordes of psychotic females have forced the staff to go on a 24-hour basis.

The ratio has received a further neutralization with the gradual disappearance of the Air Force from campus. The danger of a pitched struggle between 1200 embattled fliers and 8000 love-hungry collegiates has passed without the necessity of evoking an airlift.

Also in the past are such desperate and utopian suggestions as female Mormonism, male deportation, and one obscure plan to set up a unique form of railroad-type timetable.

And as sex approaches normality here—numerically speaking—the Old Boys begin spinning their yarns by the fire, tales of how it was when they were young and in their prime, tales of the three, three and a half, and even four to one ratios of the Filthy Forties.

They remember the ill-starred get-acquainted mixers during other Orientation Weeks, with four thousand slaving males lined up against the wall of Rec Hall while three horribly embarrassed brothers danced awkwardly with three beaming young ladies in the very center of the vast, bare floor, to the sound of a funeral phonograph.

They tell stories of waiting lists, with delays ranging from four and a half weeks for a coke date to three years and five months for an assignment.

They remember Simmons lobby so filled with Air Force personnel that an unfortunate corporal saluting a passing lieutenant, was beaten severely about the head and chest by an entire infuriated company.

They shed a reminiscent tear for the freshman who, after customs were lifted and he was finally allowed to speak to women, spent the rest of his life seeking one to speak to and died in the arms of a husky campus policeman at the age of 95, murmuring, "Mother."

They swap yarns about certain secretaries who flatly refused dazzling salaries and superb working conditions from

great corporations, preferring to work for tiny wages and in dingy offices at Penn State, for reasons which they never spoke about, even to each other.

They laugh grimly recalling the lines of silent, quivering men, not speaking, but making a faint sighing sound like the ocean from afar, which formed before the Corner Room to watch buses loaded with imports pull up and discharge their colorful burdens into waiting limousines marked with large Greek letters.

But these are merely old men, spinning tales of their youth before a glowing fire, with none but themselves to hear. The new generation is out getting phone numbers.

Former Student Films Jap Talks

Sfc. Luther F. Kepler, Jr., a former student at the College, was in charge of filming and recording the proceedings of the Japanese peace conference held in San Francisco.

Kepler is in San Francisco with a crew of eight men. Prior to this assignment, Kepler and his crew had been filming the damage wrought by the Kansas flood. The films were made to be studied by congressional committees considering reclamation appropriations for the stricken area.

Kepler is permanently stationed at Long Island, N.Y., with the Second Signal Corps photographic platoon.

Alma Mater Sung For Fifty Years

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Alma Mater. The song was written by Dr. Fred Lewis Pattee, who was a professor of English and Rhetoric.

Inspiration for the Alma Mater was the hymn, "Lead Me On." In April 1901, Dr. Pattee offered the song he wrote as a suggestion. The song won an immediate approval.

Gen. James A. Beaver, president of the Board of Trustees, designated it as the College's Alma Mater.