

The Daily Collegian

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Government Must Better U.S. Health

Those who have been impressed by the campaign of the American Medical Association against some form of national health program need to re-examine the case in view of the recent disclosure by Col. Henry M. Gross that 50 per cent of the men being examined by the Selective Service in Pennsylvania are being rejected for physical and mental reasons.

Fifty per cent is an appalling figure. It becomes more appalling when contemplated on a personal basis. A 50 per cent rejection figure means that one out of two of the men you know between the ages of 18 and 26 is not eligible for military service.

The AMA would have us believe that present medical facilities in the United States are adequate. We doubt that they are adequate, but even if they were, then we would have to come to the conclusion that adequate facilities are being wasted. How else account for such a high rate of rejections for the armed forces?

The primary problem in the present medical setup in the United States today is not our doctors. What is wrong with American medicine today is that it is not serving the needs of the people who need it most: those Americans in the lower income brackets.

A large percentage of the American people are today financially unable to purchase the medical care they require. The inability of these people is not a personal problem, for the health of the nation is at stake.

A 50 per cent rejection rate indicates that the medical profession has not been doing an acceptable job. Private industry—if you wish to call it that—has failed. In so essential a sphere as medicine, the failure of private industry should be met by the action of the federal government.

Some call it socialism; we think it is the intelligent thing to do.

Hazing Is Harmful

The recent release of scholastic averages adds increasing strength to the stand that hell weeks should be eliminated and constructive work programs be substituted.

In comparison to the 1.48 over-all average made by students at the College, fraternity men made a lowly 1.38. We feel that hell week contributed greatly to this drop.

It seems that brothers fare no better than the pledges during such affairs. The entire setup seems to be calculated to eliminate all sleep for the entire fraternity house.

The high 1.82 average achieved by sororities seems to point out the need for a reform in the hell week program even more strongly. Sororities hell weeks are not as violent or prolonged as the fraternity versions.

As was pointed out in a previous editorial, one purpose of the fraternity system is to promote high standards of scholarship. This is included in practically all fraternity rituals.

The Interfraternity Council Workshop, held earlier this semester, came to the conclusion that there is a need for improved public relations and a very good way to accomplish this is by work weeks—not hell weeks.

The University of North Carolina newspaper, the Daily Tarheel, recently ran an editorial lauding the movement started by the IFC committee on hazing to abolish such practices.

In the editorial it called for hazing to be "ruled out" including "such activities as scavenger hunts, 'rides,' detrimental public display, padding, all-night work details, and any other form of humiliation or physical abuse to which pledges might previously have been subjected."

We go along whole-heartedly with the Daily Tarheel, and we feel we are even more justified—look at the All-College averages.

—Bob Fraser

"Friendship is the only thing in the world concerning the usefulness of which all mankind are agreed."—Cicero

Freshman Customs Must Be Improved

In a short time, as the spring semester begins, new freshmen will undergo customs.

To start off with, all concerned will admit that enforcement of customs, and the program as a whole, was almost a complete bust last February.

When customs were first renewed last September, the program lacked much that was needed to make it a success. But, by comparison, the first renewal was a smash hit, and spring semester customs were still sad.

A lot of the blame for February's poor showing can be laid to careless planning for the second semester period, to lackadaisical enforcement by hatmen, and no enforcement to speak of by upperclassmen.

This semester's customs period showed a great improvement. But it too had its bad points, one of the more glaring shortcomings being almost no enforcement of customs by hatwomen or upperclass women.

We hope student government leaders responsible for the customs program have benefited by the past year's experience.

It is time to start thinking about the customs program, and then to do something about it. The plans are undoubtedly already made. The next step should be to start them moving.

Make sure there are no shortages of customs at the BX; have meetings of the hat societies and familiarize them with the customs program and impress upon them their traditional role of enforcement; set up a plan now—and make it stick—where there will be joint enforcement of customs.

Either make sure the dating customs will be enforced or do away with them altogether.

Customs seem to go over big in September, and fall flat in mid-winter. Possibly it's the weather.

But more likely, it's due to the fact that over the summer everybody has a lot of time to think about what he's going to do in the fall, and makes plans.

When the mid-year freshman class arrives, they sort of seem to sneak up on everybody. As a result, no real plan can be put into effect.

Now is the time to start thinking about a plan so that customs will run smoothly and accomplish their purpose.

—George Glazer

But Where Can You Park a Plane?

JONESBORO, Ark.,—(AP)—How's this for being modern?

Bob McGinnis commutes between his home and college by plane. He has a pilot's license, but he doesn't yet have a permit to drive an automobile.

Bob, a sophomore at Arkansas State College here, resides on a farm at Ettowah, 40 miles from Jonesboro.

In order to go to school and still be of considerable help around the farm, he flies a daily round trip—and he makes it to class and back in less time than do many students living off the campus in Jonesboro.

Even though he expects to get his drivers' license shortly, he has no intention of motoring between farm and college. "Travel by air," says Bob, "is safer, faster, and more thrilling."

If he gets up early enough, he flies his cub plane and travel time is about 25 minutes. If Bob is running a bit late for his 8 o'clock class, he hops into a Cessna and lands in the college's cow pasture in about 15 minutes.

Perhaps McGinnis has come up with a solution for Penn State's parking problem now being studied by an administration committee. Instead of driving to school, some students and faculty members could fly in. A better solution might be the construction of additional parking facilities.

Gazette . . .

Tuesday, January 8

CHESS CLUB, 3 Sparks, 7 p.m.
 COLLEGIAN business candidates, 1 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

COLLEGIAN business staff, 9 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

COLLEGIAN editorial, sophomore board, 2 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

DELTA SIGMA PI, Phi Kappa Phi, 7:30 p.m.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, TUB, 8:45 p.m.

FENCING CLUB, Beaver Field water tower, 7 p.m.

MARKETING CLUB, speaker, Sigma Chi, 4 p.m.

PENN STATE CLUB, 405 Old Main, 7 p.m.

RADIO GUILD, followed by executive council meeting, 304 Sparks, 7 p.m.

TRIBUNAL, 201 Old Main, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Co. will interview January graduates in C&F and L.A. Thursday.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. will interview January graduates in L.A., C&F, and Journ Thursday.

North American Insurance Co. will interview January graduates in C&F Friday, January 18.

Mound Laboratory, operated by Monsanto Chemical Co. will interview 1952 Ph.D. candidates in Chem. Tuesday.

Solvay Process Division of Allied Chemical and Dye Corp. will interview 1952 graduates at the M.S. and Ph.D. level in Chemistry Thursday.

Virginia Smelting Co. will interview January graduates at the B.S. level and 1952 graduates at the M.S. and Ph.D. level in Chemistry, and January B.S. candidates and 1952 M.S. candidates in Chem. Eng. Friday, Jan. 18.

Eli Lilly and Co. will interview 1952 candidates in Organic Chem at the Ph.D. level Monday, Jan. 14.

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"Hey, George, these pledges of ours are complaining about the food again."

A Column, by George!

Romance Is Nice — But Hazardous too

By GEORGE GLAZER

In the normal course of human events, romance is considered one of the nicest things that can happen to people. To people in love, everything is usually rosy, everything goes right at work or at play, and even the prospective in-laws are nice people, for the time being.

But at college, the fraternity system in particular seems to do everything possible to discourage romance by making such an undertaking almost hazardous.

Take for example when a fellow gives a girl his fraternity pin. This is all very nice. It assures the guy of a steady date, gets his socks mended, and even leaves the way open for an invitation to dinner, with the girl paying for a change.

That's the nice part. Then sooner or later, the couple starts paying for its rash action.

If they sit in the living room on a couch and just try to enjoy one another's company, the brothers, pledges, and their dates start whispering between themselves and wondering what the hell's the matter with those two anyway.

And if they sit alone in a dark corner, or get into a car, or go for a walk, everyone exchanges sly glances, winks knowingly and sings a pleasant little ditty called "We Know Where You're Going."

Worse yet, if you happen to have a love life that's not situated in the pleasantly isolated confines of the Nittany Valley, then immediately you become an object of pity—pleasant, but still pity.

For instance, we became engaged to a lovely young lady in Philadelphia. Sometimes on weekends, we drift in on the social crowd to chat for a while. Then the murmurs of "Poor George, Mickie's in Philly," go around the room.

That's not so bad, but it's the physical part of the courtship that hurts.

It happens like this. The house was sleeping soundly one night, and only a few mutterings from a far corner of the hall can be heard. Then comes the giggling, and the whispers to be quiet and the shuffling and the fun is on.

Next step—a light tap on the door of the guy who is undoubtedly dreaming of his sweetheart. He obediently and politely an-

swers the door—which of course is a fatal mistake.

That's when the rest of the miniature Klu Klux Klan appears. The body romantic is swept from his feet all right—and carried to a bathtub filled with ice cold water—just waiting for an occupant.

Tradition dictates that the victim must fight to the best of his ability and take his punishment like one going to the chair, rather than someone who is rather sleepy, and just wants to get it over with.

The victim's first thoughts of apprehension come when the bathroom is reached.

If he is able to give it a thought, that bathtub looks like a snake pit. Just imagine yourself there. You've been in bed, are just feeling warm, cozy and pleasantly drowsy, when all of a sudden you're on your way to Siberia.

Anyway, the beginnings of real protest start to stir about now in the victim. His squirmings and wriggings become frenzied, and the four letter Anglo-Saxon obscenities become louder and more frequent.

But is he put out of his misery quickly?—nah—that would spoil the fun.

So for a few seconds his convulsive form is held over the water. Then, just as he relaxes to get a fresh grip of his captors—he's dunked.

Then the crowd scatters, and the rescue squad comes dashing to the scene, their ice picks and warm blankets waving in the breeze.

In the meantime, the assassins have left on another mission, because these things never happen singly—that's against the rules. If worse come to worst, they'll pick on the first guy they see, and dunk him.

In fact it got so bad out at the house, what with engagements and pinnings and marriage plans coming in such a steady stream, that the boys worked on a regular schedule.

One brother always stood by and laughed.

So for the last three dunkings, he's gone too. As a matter of fact, he is fast on his way to becoming a tradition himself.