

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 viewpoint of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the newspaper. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

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Excuse Plan Aimed At Obstinate Profs

When the College Senate meets this afternoon, one of the items on its agenda is proposed changes in the undergraduate regulations dealing with excused absences.

Under the plan submitted to the Senate a month ago, an "official" excuse would be set up. These excuses must be honored by instructors and they will be granted for authorized athletic trips, inspection trips, student organization trips, hospital confinement, and personal emergencies.

The new regulation also provides that any work missed during an absence from class for which an official excuse is submitted may be made up by the student without any penalty.

The Senate is expected to give its approval to the proposed regulation this afternoon. The action should help to alleviate a problem which has been plaguing students for some time. That problem is the refusal of some short-sighted and downright cussed members of the faculty to recognize an excuse from class no matter what the authorization.

During this past year there have been instances where some instructors have refused to accept the excuse notes of athletes who have been away on trips and students who have been ill and have excuses from the infirmary. At the same time, these instructors have refused to accept the work submitted late by these students in an attempt to catch up on missed assignments.

The majority of the faculty should not be affected by the change in the regulation. This regulation is aimed at those members of the faculty who are unreasonable and arbitrary. They—and the majority of students—know who they are.

—Marv Krasnansky

Honors Day Change Needed in Future

Monday evening a number of students and graduates of the College were honored by the College at the second annual Honors Day program. Only about 500 people attended the short, but dignified ceremony. This is certainly not an impressive increase over last year's attendance.

Among the five alumni that were honored was perhaps the greatest engineer of tunnel construction in the world. Another was one of the most esteemed consulting mining engineers in the country. Others were the director of the United States Bureau of Mines, the president of the Mine Safety Appliances Co., and the chairman of the National Carbon Co.

Men holding these positions should have created at least curiosity among students, but when we consider that the Distinguished Alumnus award which each received is the highest honor Penn State can confer on a graduate of the College, we wonder indeed why so few students and faculty attended. Last year the winners of the award were just as impressive and attendance was just as poor.

If this weren't enough attraction, there were also the awards made to members of the student body and the installation ceremony for the new All-College president to draw a crowd. But only 500 showed up.

Surely it must have been quite embarrassing for President Eisenhower to have such a small audience (for the size of the school) to which to present his distinguished guests. And we blush, too, to think what the impression of these men must be of the present student body. For an institution of higher learning, there doesn't seem to be much interest in seeing scholarship and achievement rewarded.

There has been some criticism of the time chosen for the ceremony this year. Some have stated that Monday was a bad day because there was no Collegian to remind students of the events. Monday night seems to have been bad for other reasons, too.

One solution to the problem of filling the

auditorium has been suggested which we feel warrants consideration. This plan suggests that the Honors Day ceremony be made a part of the Mother's Day weekend activities, since a large number of parents is on campus that weekend. This would allow the parents to see, first hand, at least a part of the scholastic side of Penn State. In addition, having the ceremony on, perhaps, the afternoon of Mother's Day would enable many of the parents of the students being honored on the program to attend the ceremony.

At any rate, it seems advisable to have the program on a Sunday so that the parents might attend to see their sons and daughters receive their awards. Certainly it is a proud moment in the lives of both the student and his parents, and one which should be shared.

We hope that next year's Honors Day ceremony is better attended. Perhaps the plan we've suggested is not the best answer to the problem. In any case, when those in charge get together to arrange the program for next year, we hope the decisions they arrive at will prove to be more convenient for everyone.

Britain vs. America For Top Film Fare

An interesting contrast between American and British film fare has been featured by the downtown theaters.

Both "The Lavendar Hill Mob" and "Rhubarb" are comedies, or claim to be. Both are made by "name" companies; both have well-known stars heading their casts. But...

In the American offering we have the millionth-odd rehash of the same old theme, with the millionth-odd good book pulverized into total unrecognizability. There is a Boy. There is a Girl. They can't get married or otherwise because of an Obstacle (a cat). There is the re-use of every gimmick ever employed in a successful or semi-successful picture, in the hope that they'll still be funny. There is slapstick. There is the Funny Gangster; the Lovable Old Fellow, even—so help us—the Irish cop.

Finally, there is Brooklyn. If H. Allen Smith were dead, he'd be revolving rapidly in his sepulchre.

The British film? The British film gives us as hero a dowdy little 40-year old bank clerk—no girls. It gives us one of the funniest chains of events ever to hit the screen, with the clerk's incredible scheme for robbing his bank. There is originality in every foot of film, honest Humor—not gags—in every lineament and line of Alec Guinness. There is the same wonderful wit—evidently alien to Hollywood—which produced "Tight Little Island," "Kind Hearts and Coronets," and "Passport to Pimlico."

Movies Better Than Ever?

British films aren't better than ever because the best of them could really hardly be better. American films aren't better than ever because they're still the same old undistinguished films.

Wonder which theater downtown took in more money this week?

—Ron Bonn

Gazette . . .

Thursday, May 1

A.S.O., 105 Willard, 8 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION, 304 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.

COLLEGIAN editorial freshman board and candidates, 9 Carnegie, 7 p.m.

DELTA SIGMA PI, business meeting, Theta Kappa Epsilon, 7 p.m.

DIE NEUEN BAVRISCHEN SCHUHPLATTLER, 100 Horticulture, 7:30 p.m.

LION PARTY steering committee, 214 Willard, 6:30 p.m.

NEWMAN CLUB scholastic philosophy lecture-discussion, John Hammes in charge, 317 Willard, 7:15 p.m.

NEWS AND VIEWS, 14 Home Economics, 6:30 p.m.

PHI MU DELTA, 410 Old Main, 8 p.m.

WRA SWIMMING, White Hall pool, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Joseph Bard, Merle Gearhart, Francis Glessner, Barbara Gooding, Stanley Greenblatt, Helen Hedge, Luella Heineman, Sandra Hoffman, Edward Hoover, Carolyn Johnson, Albert Kerr, Mary Krasley, Charles Leech, Marsha Levin, Kathryn Milliken, Norman Porter, A. Delbert Samson, Nancy Seiple, Don Smith, Ann Swagler, Donald Van Epp, Sally Winnett, Noelle Winninger.

AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM: Lavender Hill Mob 2:13, 4:03, 5:59, 7:47, 9:45

STATE: Jungle Manhunt 2:11, 4:06, 5:55, 7:59, 9:39

NITTANY: Adventures of Robin Hood 6:25, 8:19, 10:15.

STARLIGHT DRIVE-IN: Coming Around the Mountain, and The Texas Rangers 8:30.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Men to work as ice cream dispensers evenings and week days. Man for outside work from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. for spring and summer.

Clerking from noon until 4 p.m.

Part time Drafting for summer and fall.

Camp Starlight, Starlight, Penna., will interview men and women May 9. Variety of jobs open.

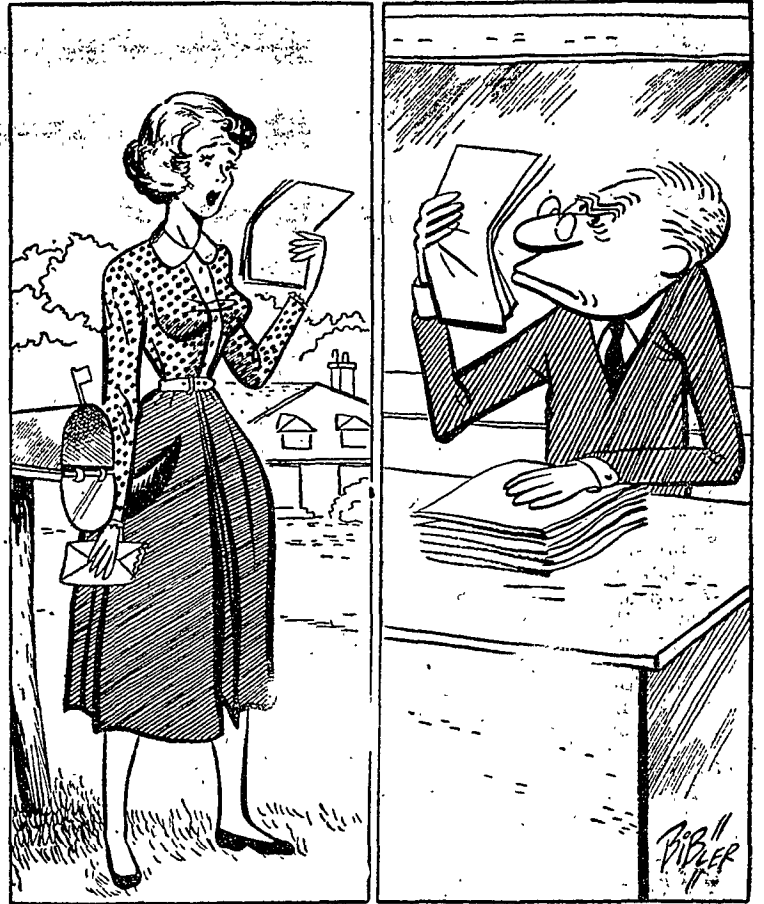
Camp Linden, Northbrook, Penna., will interview men and women May 8. Variety of jobs open.

Married couple for full time summer job near State College.

"This country would not be a land of opportunity, America would not be America, if the people were shackled with government monopolies"—Calvin Coolidge

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"THE PRIVATE LIFE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE" Shakespeare was born in—

Dear Louise, How are things out on the farm? I'm writing this letter in class while old Prof Snarf raves on—

Interpreting the News

Next Step in Steel May Be Taft-Hartley

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.
Associated Press-News Analyst

It is hard to see now, if the emergency need for steel is as great as his previous actions have indicated, how the President can avoid invoking the Taft-Hartley Law to obtain continued production.

The administration is, of course, moving quickly for a Supreme Court hearing on Judge Pine's decision of Tuesday, granting an injunction against government operation of the plants under an assumption by the President of "inherent" seizure power which Pine says does not exist.

The Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling staying the effective date of Judge Pine's order indefinitely now takes the heat off for the moment and sends the issue directly to the Supreme Court. But the appeal will take time, with no assurance that Truman will be upheld in the end.

Contrary to what seems to be a fairly widespread belief, there is nothing instantaneous which can be done about the strike under Taft-Hartley either. First a fact-finding commission would have to be appointed. The commission would have to investigate the issues and find no possibility of a negotiated settlement. Then the President could ask a Federal Court for an order delaying the strike for 80 days—but not forbidding it in the long run.

As a matter of reality, there is something to the contention by the President and by the union that, because negotiations have been under way since last November, the Taft-Hartley provi-

sions already have been complied with though not invoked.

But the trouble has now been expanded from a dispute between the union and the industry to a dispute between industry and government. The industry didn't refuse union demands as such, but only because of government regulations refusing price increases to meet new working contract costs.

It would seem that the relation of wages to cost could be worked out strictly on a basis of equity in courts designed for the purpose. It could be except that industry would not trust some courts to be free of political interference, and labor would not give up its influence on government.

Judge Pine said: "I believe that the contemplated strike, if it came, would be less injurious to the public than the injury which would flow from a timorous judicial recognition that there is some basis for this claim to unlimited and unrestrained executive power."

If there is any one threat that runs persistently through the history of the Anglo-Saxon peoples it is self defense against the powers of their own governments.

SU Requests Lists Of New Officers

Names of new officers of fraternities, sororities, clubs, honor societies, and all other organizations should be turned in at the Student Union desk in Old Main as soon as possible, according to George Donovan, Student Union director.

The Student Union Directory will be printed May 28, and it is necessary that all officers' names be turned in before that date, Donovan said.

Freshman Dance Set for Saturday

The freshman class will hold its annual dance from 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday in Recreation Hall.

Music for the informal affair will be provided by the Dream Time Serenaders of Tyrone.

Freshmen may pick up free tickets at the Student Union desk in Old Main upon presenting matriculation cards, John Apgar, freshman class vice president and dance chairman, announced.