

# The Daily Collegian

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## STAFF THIS ISSUE

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## New AIM Election Is Best Solution

If the Association of Independent Men needed anything to make it look more ridiculous than it did when it named a fraternity man as the "Independent Athlete of the Year," the election as president of a man who did not have the required scholastic average really did the trick.

The former mistake was relatively minor. It wasn't really too important and caused only a few red faces. But the current error can't be laughed off; the whole of AIM should be blushing, and we know those that are really interested in the organization are. There will be a lot of unnecessary unpleasantness because of a mistake that, with only a very slight amount of care, should never have occurred.

Just where the blame should be placed is hard to tell. Had the AIM nominating committee done its job properly, no such incident would have arisen. On the other hand, the candidate is not entirely blameless either. At any rate, the responsibility, wherever it rested, was not followed through.

The current uproar has brought into the open one thing which has been obvious to at least a few people for some time. This is that AIM needs something—though just what that something is we aren't sure. Perhaps it is a greater sense of unity.

It's plain to most students that AIM doesn't have the coordination that such groups as the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council have. Maybe this can't be expected. AIM is too large and unwieldy a group to be really effective. It has no tangible groups which can be represented on its Board of Governors, and its members are too spread out and just too disinterested to make the organization a mighty force on campus.

This isn't to say that AIM has done nothing good. It has contributed to the support of Inking, Penn State's literary magazine, has aided in straightening out dining hall difficulties, sponsors annual houseparties and holds frequent Friday and Saturday night dances for the independent men, and has aided in the collection of funds for the Gentzel fire victims.

But to get back to the original problem, that of the AIM elections.

At a special meeting of the AIM Board of Governors this afternoon, the whole matter is to be discussed and a course of action to be decided upon. It is quite likely that a re-election will be held, and John Laubach, former AIM president, has stated that if no suggestions are made at the meeting he will suggest that a new election be held.

We agree that an entirely new election is the best action that can be taken, but we are definitely against the plan to have that election this afternoon as Laubach suggests. Any Saturday afternoon would be a bad time to hold such an important election, but today is particularly bad because of the Spring weekend activities.

In the first place, the Board of Governors will have little or no chance to get to know the proposed candidates. In addition, it is doubtful that a very representative showing of the board will be present to vote on the nominees. And then too, will the nominating committee be able to present a slate of suitable and eligible candidates on such short notice?

We have heard rumors that some people feel the best plan is to change the AIM constitution, eliminating the requirement of at least a 1.0 All-College average for its office-holders. We'd like to point out that this would solve nothing.

First of all, the AIM president is a member of All-College Cabinet and the All-College Constitution clearly states that no student is eligible for cabinet membership unless he has a 1.0 All-College average. And as far as we can make out, it would be impossible for an organization to send a permanent substitute to cabinet.

Secondly, it must be realized that a student who does not have a 1.0 average is going to find it very difficult, if not impossible, to stay in college and still do justice to the office he holds. No matter how much the student wants to do a good job, it would be unfair to the organization to make it stand the risk involved. This is especially true of AIM.

And there is still a third point—that of scholastic probation. The College undergraduate regulations state that a student on probation because of poor scholarship "shall not participate in any extracurricular activity of the College, except that he may continue to be an ordinary member of any organization without holding any office or committee membership whatsoever, and without taking any active part in its activities." A student is placed on probation when his average drops to 0.65 or below. Once a student gets below 1.0, he is skirting dangerously close to probation and in our opinion cannot possibly be a suitable candidate for

any office.

The whole situation is most embarrassing to everyone concerned. It puts AIM in a bad light when that organization can't afford to be in a bad light. We hope the meeting this afternoon will do something toward seeing that such a situation doesn't arise again. As far as AIM is concerned, it can't afford a re-occurrence of this type of business.

By carefully considering its action this afternoon, AIM will be taking a step in the right direction.

## Leonides Rules Need Revision

It is a relatively simple matter to condemn students for disinterest, apathy, and downright laziness when, in an election such as Leonides recently held, only 40 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots. It is true that the elected officers therefore represent the choice of less than one-half the independent women on campus, a really regrettable situation.

Because of a certain clause in the Leonides election code, however, we wonder if the blame can be laid entirely on the students.

This ruling forbids door to door campaigning by nominees for Leonides' offices.

By forbidding nominees the right to stop at a woman's room, introduce themselves, and talk over problems of mutual interest to independent students, this ruling makes it difficult for the woman who is unacquainted with them to find out their qualifications and for what they will work if elected.

True, an interested student may hustle up to the Dean of Women's office and look up the nominees' activities in the card file, but how much does this tell about a person? A woman may have worked on numerous committees and be active in many clubs, and yet not have the drive and administrative ability necessary to lead an organization the size and scope of Leonides.

One of the reasons, we feel, that a record number of students voted in the recent All-College elections was because the All-College and class nominees conducted vigorous personal campaigns. In addition to appearing in dining halls at mealtime, they went to fraternity houses and dormitory rooms and told the students how they felt about various issues. They became more than names and pictures on a poster.

Leonides leaders seem to be in the dark as to the reason for this ruling, which has been in effect for at least three years. The general feeling, however, is that because the nominees' qualifications are investigated by the Leonides Council before the slate is drawn up, door to door campaigning is unnecessary. It is felt that the woman who campaigns more vigorously might have an unfair advantage over her opponent.

Granted, she does have an advantage, and, we feel, a fair one. If Leonides wishes to have more support and interest shown by independent women in the election, the organization should dispense with this ruling and allow independent women to conduct independent campaigns.

—Bettie Loux

## Arts Exhibit Shows Student Talent

The Combined Arts Festival, currently being celebrated on campus, is unique in that it is a combination of the efforts of students not only in the departments of art education and fine arts but in music, home arts, architecture, dramatics, landscape horticulture, and speech as well.

Opening two weeks ago with the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Reading Festival and marked by performances of Players' "Biography" and "She Stoops to Conquer" in addition to the modern dance and Glee Club concerts, the festival has touched on fields of which one is certainly of interest to every student on the campus.

The combined arts exhibits on display in the TUB only until Monday show desire to make this observance meaningful to everyone. Those who have contributed work have shied away from anything "arty" as much as do most of the students.

One of the most interesting displays is a plan for a small chapel for the College showing elevations from various sides, a cross section, and the interior and exterior, all drawn to scale. The architecture student who planned this chapel made it a circular shape, "ending where it begins and repeating itself . . . the eternal line," in her words.

Photographs from this year's Players' shows are on display with set designs in which dramatics students have expressed emotions with such objects as a tree, staircase, bench, and column.

Contributions from the Home Arts department include contemporary furniture, some of it most unusual, table settings, and brass and wooden utensils. Displays from other groups include a model of a one-story house and its landscaping, sculpture, murals, designs with paper and string, pencil sketches, and oil and water paintings.

Naturally not all of the work shows the talent of Rembrandt, but because it shows the feelings and efforts of students our age it is certainly worth looking at. It is there not only to be enjoyed but to be criticized and discussed. It is a combined festival made possible through combined efforts, for a large student group of diversified interests.

—B.L.

## Little Man On Campus By Bibler



"Professor Snarf, I want to congratulate you on building the engineering school into one of the finest in the country—I overheard some students say you flunked over half the class last term."

## Interpreting the News

# Koje Prison Trouble Example of Cover-up

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.

Associated Press News Analyst

I doubt that we shall ever have an entirely clear picture of what's been going on in the prisoner of war camps in Korea.

The precision with which both military and diplomatic brass can form an opaque column of circles around a brother caught with his procedure down is a beautiful thing to watch—if you're not

trying to get at the roots of things. Preliminary reports, however, are sufficient to establish that those responsible for camp operations—probably under constant pressure from above to make sure the Communists were given no reasons for propaganda about treatment of the inmates—actually have been working on the basis of appeasement of prisoners.

Communist flags have been flown in the prison compound in violation of rules and nothing done about it for fear that forcible enforcement would make the Allies liable to charges of violating the Geneva Convention. Prisoners have been trading with civilians, and protested when contraband goods such as watches and pens were confiscated. Confiscation was rescinded.

The Communists have gotten away with establishing their own guards to see that non-Communists did not escape.

The Associated Press report of conditions at Kojé said:

"The Reds have succeeded on many occasions in forcing their demands on camp officials." Now "the Reds hold sway and run things to suit themselves."

In other words, the United

States has been so afraid of Communist propaganda that it has not been conducting its business properly.

To climax it all, despite previous riots and efforts by the Communists to capture hostages, high American officers have put themselves in position to be attacked, and a general has undergone a brief imprisonment. To get him released, another has made a very embarrassing reply to a Communist demand of the "have you stopped beating your wife" type.

The upshot of the laxity and appeasement has been to permit the Communists to take the spotlight away from their Panmunjom efforts to keep a war going without any great cost to themselves, and from the fact that 75 per cent of the Chinese prisoners would rather be dead than be sent home. There can hardly be any doubt that it has meant persecution of the non-Communist majority in the camps by the Communist equivalent of the old familiar kangaroo courts of the worst run American prisons.

It is hardly surprising that Pentagon officials are reported at a loss to understand how the situation was permitted to develop over what must have been a long period of time.



## Gazette . . .

Monday, May 19

ELECTRONICS WARFARE UNIT 4-3, 200 Engineering E, 7 p.m.

NEWMAN CLUB PROGRAM COMMITTEE meeting, 409 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS AND VOCATION ED PICNIC, Foster and Holmes park, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL Stuart Allen, Gelda Antokolitz, Joan Atkinson, Clifford Bea, Pat Beahan, Helen DeLaine, Paul Hofmann, David Howells, Barbara Hyman, John Peifer, Walter Saxe, Grace Thomas, Robert Young.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT Sinclair Oil Co. is interested in June graduates in M.E., E.E., and C.E. and

will visit the campus if enough students apply before May 16 at 112 Old Main.

West Penn Power Co. will interview undergraduates for summer work in M.E., E.E., and I.E. May 27.

### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Men to work as ice cream dispensers evenings and week days.

Camp Linden, Northbrook, Penna., will interview men for August camp work.

Married couple for full time summer job near State College.

Men with soda dispensing experience for Friday and Saturday night job.

Man interested in becoming member of student magazine agency for next fall.

Women for night clerking jobs.

Camp Lillian Taylor will interview men and women May 16. Variety of jobs open.

Boy for noontime work 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Bass player and tenor sax player for May 17.

Student wife to do part time secretarial work in exchange for rent of apartment. Couple may have child.

Man for local camp counseling job. See Monday June 7 to July 27.

Student for summer drafting job.