

# The Daily Collegian

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## New Hat Society Wouldn't Be Castoff

The chief stumbling block to the formation of a new senior women's hat society seems to be the requirement that a woman initiated into the group shall not have belonged to either Cwens, sophomore women's hat society, or Chimes, junior women's hat society. Another argument against the proposed group is that women would regard the new hat society as merely a castoff from Mortar Board, senior women's honorary.

It would seem that the second viewpoint is merely rationalization on the part of some women who aren't particularly anxious to see a senior women's hat society formed. The requirement for membership appears to be one way of making the "castoff" idea seem authentic.

There is absolutely no reason why a new hat group should be considered inferior to Mortar Board. In the first place, Mortar Board is primarily a recognition of scholastic ability, with leadership at the College considered as a secondary point. The new hat group would recognize the many other senior women who have been active on campus, but whose scholastic averages do not meet the requirements of Mortar Board. These women deserve this recognition.

The requirement that a woman shall not have belonged to either Cwens or Chimes seems like an attempt to present the new group as a castoff. It should be a recognized fact that few women, if any, become active in any field once they have passed their junior year. On the other hand, a woman who has been active from her freshman year on can be recognized once—perhaps in her sophomore year—and never receive recognition for the things she might accomplish in her junior or senior years.

Under this requirement, for instance, a woman active on a student council might be tapped for a hat society in her sophomore year. Later on, she might become president of that council, and perhaps from there go on to an even more important student position on campus. But because she had already been tapped by a hat society, she can get no other recognition for her accomplishments since that time.

By removing the controversial membership requirement, what happens? The cream of the women tapped by the other two hat societies become available for the new group, making it a very impressive group. It would be comprised of the top women on campus, whose averages are, perhaps, not the best, but who have played an important role in building the status of women at Penn State.

The women insist that 1.5 be the minimum average for admittance to the new group. This will undoubtedly keep some deserving women from the recognition they ought to get, but at least some headway is being made.

A new women's hat society is almost a reality. With sincere consideration on the part of everyone concerned, this "almost" can be wiped out.

## All-Veteran Dorms Could Prove Bad

The turning down of the proposed plan to set up veterans' dormitories by the Dean of Men's student advisory board perhaps seemed strange and unfair to many people, especially to the vets themselves.

One of the chief reasons for the decision was the fact that surveys conducted in the Nittany-Pollock areas showed only slightly more than 50 per cent of the ex-G.I.'s in those areas were interested in moving to an all-veteran dormitory. Of this 50 per cent, there were probably some who didn't care one way or another, but decided to vote along with their friends on the matter.

The other chief reason for turning down the proposal lay in the concern over the effect of this move on the vets themselves and on the other men in the dorms. Many of the requests which came into Dean Simes expressed legitimate reasons for the desire to have a dorm for vets only. One of these was that many of the freshmen, and even some of the upperclassmen, made studying almost impossible by their noise in the evenings. The Dean's solution to this problem was a good one—have a core of vets and older students in each dorm to help calm down the rambunctious underclassmen and thus make studying possible.

Both the dean and the board feared that the granting of this request would lead to similar requests which couldn't possibly be approved.

The board also expressed the opinion that the veterans, who in most cases are older than the average student, must begin to habituate themselves to the conditions around them. They are now college students and must adjust to that type of life. Going off by themselves would only tend to widen the gap between them and the average college student, which isn't a desirable situation.

Undoubtedly there are special cases among the vets which should receive individual attention. This can be handled, however, through the Dean of Men's office, without putting into effect a policy which could have several bad effects.

## Drive With Care

Friday Penn State students en masse will be heading out of Nittany Valley and home for the two-week Christmas vacation.

If past weather conditions prevail, sometime during that period Pennsylvania will be hit by its first big snowfall. We hesitate to predict the weather, but it cannot be emphasized too often that with snow and ice come slippery roads and driving hazards.

Icy highways can be of special danger to college students during this time of year. Anxious to get home, there is the ever-present tendency to step a little harder on the gas and "push it." Over the holidays a gay partying mood prevails, and it is easier than ever to forget about safe driving.

Insurance company statistics don't lie. And they indicate that more young men and women are dying in auto accidents than ever before.

Let's hope the weather man spares us of icy highways over Christmas, but if we do get snow—let's remember the statistics—and take it easy.

—Jim Gromiller

## Gazette...

Wednesday, December 17

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, 105 M.E., 7 p.m.

PENN STATE BARBELL CLUB, Sigma Nu, 7 p.m.

PERSHING RIFLES, Armory, class "A" uniform, 7 p.m.

WRA BOWLING CLUB, White Hall alleys, 7 p.m.

WRA MODERN DANCE CLUB, White Hall dance room, 7 p.m.

### COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Charles Beattie, Jesselyn Clark, Ruth Eshelman, Barbara Felt, Robert Galloway, Alyce Grunberg, Louis Ivey, Eleanor McKenzie, Margery Phillips, John Rentschler, Eugene Sovira.

### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Boy to work evenings in local restaurant.

## Little Man on Campus By Bibler



"Picture of an admirer of mine over in the MI school."



## Spices of Life

By GINGER OPCZENSKI

In the discussions which resulted when the local chapter of Mortar Board was the official guest of the Bucknell chapter of the senior women's honorary society Saturday, we, as part of the former group, were impressed by two things:

1. Bucknell University does not forbid drinking by any part of the student body and has no particular drinking problem.
2. Bucknell women are very concerned over the female dominance of College activities and the lack of men in student administrative positions.

These two were particularly interesting to us, because the situation is exactly reversed at Penn State in both instances.

The first point needs no comment except that the discussions which revolved around it brought to light that as recently as ten years ago, the College had no laws forbidding drinking. That would place the imposition of the law at the beginning of World War II when so many service men and veterans were on campus.

Concerning the second point, we were very surprised to learn that Bucknell's yearbook editor, newspaper editor, student play director, and other important heads were women. Women in these positions are in Mortar Board, which therefore has the potential of our Lion's Paw, senior men's honorary society.

When the discussion began, State's chapter was mostly impressed by Bucknell's female dominance. But by the end of the conversations, we were even more impressed by the realization that

Penn State women work under a definite handicap.

A concrete example would be that few people would venture to predict that either political party would nominate a woman for the presidency of All-College Cabinet. And when, finally, last spring an outstanding woman became a candidate for All-College vice president, she was defeated. A woman Daily Collegian or LaVie editor seems out of the question, and this year, for the first time since the war, a woman got a position as high as fourth from the top on the newspaper staff.

Is the explanation just that Penn State men are better leaders than the women?

We feel some of the blame is the women's for not asserting themselves and taking a greater interest in campus politics. But we also think Penn State men are somewhat to blame for not accepting women on an equal basis.

### TRANSPORTATION NOTICE

## CHRISTMAS VACATION

Take a Tip and Make Your Trip

## GREYHOUND

For the convenience of PENN STATE STUDENTS, SPECIAL BUSES will be provided for the Christmas Vacation and will leave from the PARKING LOT, SOUTH OF RECREATION HALL at 1:00 p.m. SATURDAY, DECEMBER the 20th, 1952

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