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The Daily Collegian

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710 Shopping Days Until Graduation

There are as many reasons for being at Penn State as there are students. But all the reasons, no matter how varied, eventually fall into some general classification.

Some come to Penn State because college is the next step in an old process. Others come because going to college is the thing to do. Some see in college a draft deferment. Others want social life. And a very few want an honest-to-gosh education.

Penn State provides the next step in education. It offers students a chance to come to college because everybody's doing it. It may indirectly provide draft deferment. It has social life. And for those really seeking an education, it has that too.

Most students can't understand educational opportunity too well. They want to remove finals and hard profs, and want to schedule only snap courses to graduate with the least effort. These students—and there are many—are not willing to pay the price of work for the profits of a degree. These students cannot understand why a college is run to provide good education for the minority seeking it.

Penn State however, was established to provide liberal and practical education. Not social

life, draft deferment, or a chance to do what everybody's doing. This, then, is why we have hard courses, hard profs, and tests.

If Penn State did not offer educational opportunities, it wouldn't have lasted 99 years. In four years at the College, some education is bound to rub off on even the most reluctant student. So we may as well help the process a bit and seek a little education on our own.

As students, we have 710 shopping days until graduation. During those 710 days, many of us look for bargain courses and get stuck with inferior goods. Some of us pay the high price of study for the quality goods of knowledge. Most of us do not bother to shop during each of the 710 days.

Classes begin Monday. To the freshmen, 710 days seems a long time. To the seniors, who are now beginning to realize the time they have wasted, 710 days is not a long time at all.

Regardless of why we are here, it might be wise to make good use of our money and seek an education. It is too bad four years must pass before we finally realize what we have missed in the line of learning. When the freshmen begin college Monday, they would be wise to utilize the 710 days. After graduation, they will never have the chance again.

AIM Has Problems and Potentialities

In a few weeks the Association of Independent Men will start functioning as a student governmental entity. The association through its four councils—Nittany, Pollock, Town, and West Dorm—represents the independent man's means of expression on campus.

Without the organization of independent men, there would be little or no chance for this largest single category of students to have its wishes known. Yet the average independent man cares little or nothing about the operations of the association except when those operations touch his pocket.

It is with this lax attitude that AIM has its greatest number of troubles. Therefore, it is to AIM's credit that the group is able to put on as many special events as it has. The Autumn Ball last year is one example of a project that started out amid considerable pessimism in some quarters—pessimism based on the independent man's previous record of apathy. With the combined efforts of AIM and Leonides, independent women's organization, the Autumn Ball attracted about 500 couples. Financially, the dance was successful. However, it was rather poorly attended considering the number of independents on campus.

Possibly one reason for apathy is lack of respect toward the organization by not only independent men, but other students as well. This lack of respect can easily be generated by errors of AIM. For example, two years ago AIM presented its outstanding independent man's athletic award to a fraternity man. Since the man was not living at the fraternity to which he belonged, but at a town address, the mistake might be understood. However, an error such as this is not the sort of thing calculated to build confidence in any organization.

When, a few weeks after the award incident, the AIM elections committee allowed a man to be nominated and elected to the AIM pres-

idency without the required scholastic average, and the two incidents were duly condemned on the Daily Collegian's editorial page, a recommendation was favored by the AIM Board of Governors that the Daily Collegian refrain from tearing down AIM. Unfortunately, this was not the answer to the problem.

The answer to the problem that faced AIM then and has faced the group since, is not to be found in one editorial, or many, condemning occasional blunders. The answer to AIM's blunders can only be found in the men who are elected to fill the seats on the AIM Board of Governors. There is no substitute for competence and sincerity.

Almost every large organization has some amount of politics. Whether it be an openly organized political party, or several small cliques of individuals with similar interests, the political pattern still exists. It is unfortunate that these cliques have in looking at their own glory, in some instances, worked to the disadvantage of AIM, and to the disadvantage of independent men in general.

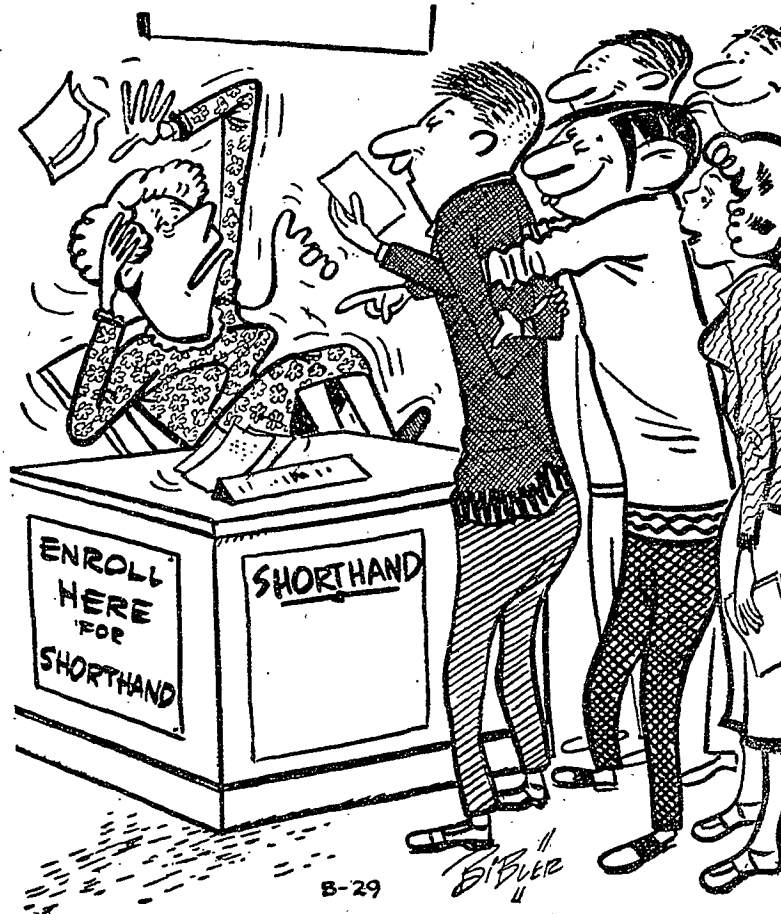
The prestige that AIM needs is not gained overnight. Nor is it gained by feeling resentment toward a headline that mirrors and measures the importance of a group's activities, correct or incorrect. Prestige is gained over a period of time by the successful implementation of projects. Projects that are many, varied, and noteworthy.

There are many men on campus who are independent by choice. For these and for those who are independent by rejection, AIM has the responsibility of keeping its name somewhat above ridicule. AIM has the necessary potential to build prestige and it has shown that it can build prestige with some of its past fine projects. With a new school year ahead, AIM will again be faced with the opportunity to build the prestige it so sorely needs and deserves.

—Dick Rau

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



B-29

"I want to enroll."

Glancing Around

At Inmates, New and Old

By DICK RAU

Judging from how fast the stack of paper towels has been going down in the Carnegie Hall men's room, I would say the students are returning to campus.

It was this observation that led me to climb to the first floor of Carnegie the other night in time to see mobs of freshmen oozing out of cracks between buildings. An interesting study might be made of the relationship between the number of buildings toured and the number of couples that dropped out due to sore feet, etc., mostly etc.

There were some upperclassmen around, too. They were found hanging around such intellectual centers as the intersection of the Mall and Pollock road, the Corner Room, and Graham's, leering at the freshmen. Three males were leering at each female and each female was leering at three males. The ratio is inevitable.

As the week progressed more upperclassmen returned to Twisted Ankle Acres. Twisted Ankle Acres—that's the place where very recent high school girl graduates are referred to as women and where saddle shoes and loafers are set aside at least once a week in favor of high heels.

With the return of more upperclassmen, the methods of bird-dogging progressed. To the uninitiated, bird-dogging is an ancient Roman sport brought to its peak when a guy named Anthony wandered into Cleopatra's backyard to build sand castles or some such thing.

Since that time convertibles have replaced sandals as the chief mode of transportation and the upperclassmen can now lean over the side of a car to get a better look at Little Red Riding Hood. The frosh women, having been warned about upperclassmen early in their orientation life, look back with genuine, although slightly morbid, interest at these male animals that roam Twisted Ankle Acres with the freedom granted them under game conservation laws.

Which reminds me of Coca Cola. Some bright person in the aforementioned industry saw the financial possibilities in establishing stands outside Recreation Hall during registration. It's too bad it wasn't done a couple of years ago when there were board of control lines in and out of and around nearly every building on campus. Of course then there would have been the problem of a wood supply for the stands.

Speaking of wood reminds me of the Pollock dorms. There are women in one of them now. My! I understand some of the

(Continued on page seven)

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