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# The Daily Collegian

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STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night editor, Len Goodman, Copy editors, Phil Austin, Peggy McClain; Assistants, Bob Dunn, Frank DiPipi, Nancy Fortna, Sue Conklin, Barbara Weinburg, Ann Saylor, Marilyn Pysher, Sally Sykes. Ad staff, Fay Goldstein, Anne Sherman.

## A Few Inequities in the Grading System

Honor Society Council has named a committee that could help eliminate the gross inequities in the grade point system.

The council is conducting a study of the Penn State grading system with an eye toward making it less stringent. The council has figures which show the University grading system 27 per cent more strict than any other school in the nation.

Students have for some time complained about the practice of giving bar-ones and bar-twos. When the Penn State freshman goes home for the first time after entering the University, his friends are often amazed that a student here can have a minus average.

Many colleges have instituted the four-point grading system, with a "zip" and no credit for those who fail a course. At Penn State, a student may pass a course and yet get no grade for it. It seems illogical that a student who passes a course cannot receive a passing grade.

Grades are designed as a measurement of attainment in a course. It is possible a student may attain nothing, and thus get a zip. But how is it possible a student may learn less than nothing and get a bar-one?

The Penn State grading system penalizes a student in one course because he fails another course. The student who receives a "two" in one course and a bar-one in another has his achievement in the first course reduced because of the failure in another, and unrelated, course. What is the reasoning behind penalizing a student in history because he has failed a course in math? The failure should be enough of a penalty, without taking credit from him in another subject.

It is impossible to understand how a student can have a less-than-nothing average. Some students actually owe the University grade

points. If a student fails many of his courses, he may receive a minus average. How is it possible for a student to flunk more credits than he has taken?

Another fallacy in the grading system is that it provides for a degree of failure. Why should one student be penalized more than another merely because he flunks a course with a lower grade? This is what is being done with bar-ones and bar-twos. The idea behind this division in failure was probably to provide incentive to the failing student. It is questionable what price we must pay for incentive.

The present grading system is too unreasonable. A Penn State student's all-College average may look anemic next to that of a student from a university where flunking a course does not subtract from the overall average.

It seems the grading system might well be changed to the four-point system employed at other institutions. Under this plan, a "one" would be equivalent to "D," and a zip would be failure. This would not make the grading system too liberal, because the percentage-of-failure regulation would still stand. This rule provides students failing 50 per cent of their credits be dismissed.

In line with such a change in the grade system, further changes would be needed. The necessary average for the dean's list, for instance, would be boosted to 3.5 from the 2.5 where it now stands. And requirements for other scholastic awards would be similarly raised.

Honor Society Council, in its consideration of this matter, has uncovered a problem of great concern to the student body. Its action must be closely watched. And student organizations would be wise in supporting the council's findings, as long as they are within reason.

vantage of this opportunity. Tribunal would be able to get a clearer picture of a case if there were someone to advise a student on his rights when appearing before the group.

Tribunal also might gain more respect in a student's eyes if a procedure could be established similar to that used in court. As the situation now stands, hearings are held in an informal and somewhat haphazard manner. If a court procedure could be established, hearings could proceed in a more business-like manner.

But such a move needs support. Applications for counselor positions were made available before the Christmas holidays. So far, only four applications have been received by Tribunal. This sounds like the same old cry against student apathy, but if students want to make improvements, they must be willing to support moves to get them.

—Don Shoemaker

## Judicial System: Good Idea, Slow Start

In an effort to improve the Penn State judicial system, Tribunal is instituting a new procedure under which counselors will be appointed to advise, or speak in defense of, a student being tried. Under this plan, the counselors will act only in an advisory capacity unless a student requests a formal hearing. In this case, the counselor may speak in the student's defense.

This is a step in the right direction. Tribunal, up to this time, has been acting as both prosecutor and judge in discipline cases. While trying to act in both capacities, Tribunal may be influenced in recommending disciplinary measures. No matter how fair a judicial body tries to be in a decision, there is likely to be some prejudice if that body also acts as prosecutor.

True, a student may speak in his own defense. But some students, because they do not fully understand Tribunal procedure, fail to take ad-

## Bloodshot Eyes

Penn State is not the only academic institution with blood in its eye.

The Associated Press reports fraternity men at the University of Pennsylvania have started to pay their fines in blood, too. In a decision by the Interfraternity Council, fines assessed against member fraternities for violating council rules will be payable in blood—at the rate of one pint for each \$5 of fine.

This seems in the same pattern of the recommendation of the Association of Independent Men's Judicial Board of Review. It was that each of 34 residents of one dormitory be required to give a pint of blood as punishment for a beer party.

At the rate of the Penn fraternity regulation, it would be considered an expensive party. At \$5 a pint for 34 pints, that's \$170 for one-half keg of beer.

Well, it may be a good idea. At Penn it is. Half the blood goes to the Red Cross blood bank and the other half to a boy badly burned in a futile attempt to save a younger brother from burning to death in a fire.

—Diehl McKalip

## Late Permissions

Spring Week plans will receive a boost if the Senate committee on student affairs grants women two 12 o'clock permissions for Spring Carnival, as recommended by Women's Student Government Association.

The special permissions would enable women to aid the men in cleaning up after the carnival closes the first night, in preparation for an early start the next day, and in dismantling carnival booths the second night. Otherwise, the burden of the work would fall fully upon the men who are co-sponsoring carnival booths.

The permissions would also permit women to visit other booths during the evenings, a chance they may not have if work at their own booths is crowded into fewer hours.

The later permissions would also enable coeds not taking part in the carnival to spend more time at the event, thus making it more of a financial and social success.

—Nancy Ward

Colleges are places where pebbles are polished and diamonds are dimmed.—A. Lincoln

## Gazette . . .

Today  
CHECKER CLUB, 8 p.m., Temporary Union Building.

### INFIRMARY

Thomas Claypoole, Joseph Comfort, William Corrigan, Arnold Dalton, Donald Daum, Clair Fletcher, Carl Goldberg, David Grove, Robert Haslett, David Howell, Thomas Kidd, Emmett Kimmy, Jeannette Kohl, Donald Mayer, Joseph Mijares, Dean Moyer, Joseph Russo, Jane Schroppe, Carolyn Stehly, Catherine Stewart, Carl von Wolffradt, Archie Williams.

### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Camp Delwood in the Poconos will interview students who are interested in counselors' positions on Feb. 16. Interested students may

sign up for appointment at the employment office.

Camp Wenonah in Naples, Me. will be here today to interview students interested in camp counselor positions.

### PLACEMENT SERVICE

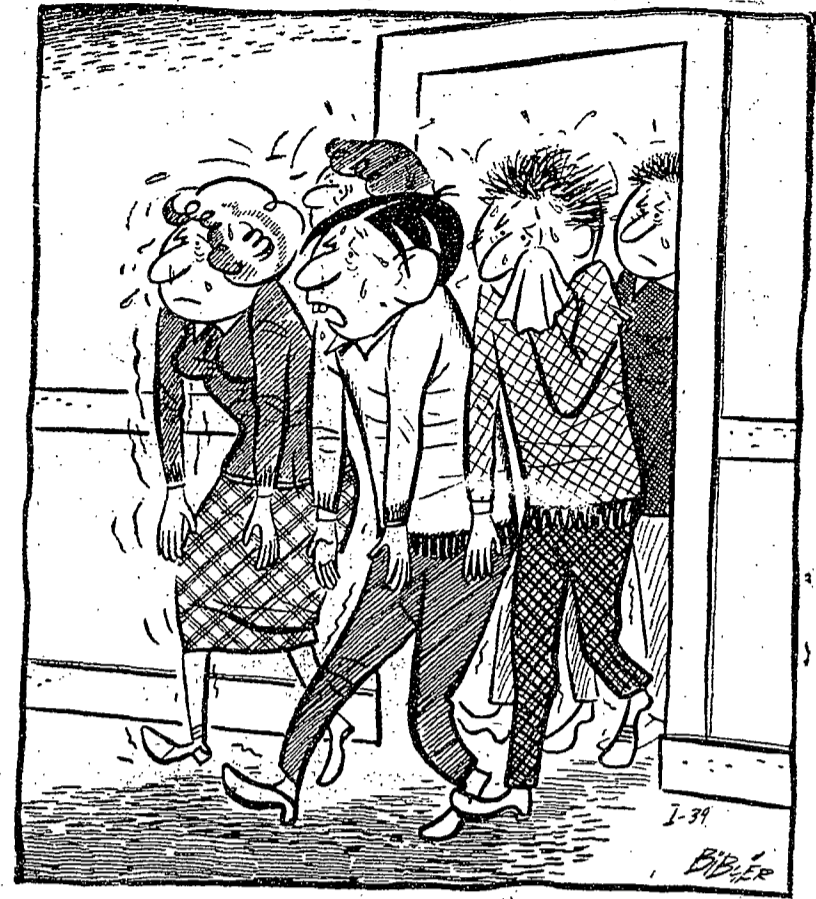
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY representatives will visit the campus Jan. 13 to interview Ph.D. candidates in Physics, Math, Chem. (Inorganic or Physical) and Metal, expecting to receive their degrees in 1954, M.S. candidates in Phys., Math, Chem., (Inorganic or Physical) and Metal, who have completed at least one semester, and graduates in the above fields who wish to consider summer work.

CAMP DELWOOD in the Poconos will interview students here on Feb. 16, who are interested in counselors' positions. Interested students may sign up for appointment at the employment office.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. will visit the campus on Jan. 14 to interview Jan. graduates for positions as trainer in life insurance sales. Also, trainee position for cashier in Johnstown—must be exempt from draft.

## Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"If ya ask me, all that blue book will ever measure is FRUSTRATION."

## Short 'Change

By GUS VOLLMER

At this time of year, finals and grades are the chief topic of discussion among students. All through the year, Communism is the subject for discussion in world affairs.

The Daily Kansan of the University of Kansas had this to say in comparing the two:

Teachers may be divided into five classifications:

1. Those who give you 3's—good, red-blooded, 100 per cent Americans.
2. Those who give you 2's—have good standing in the community, vote the Republican ticket.
3. Those who give you 1's—caution, there may be infiltration here. These are common, ordinary men with the usual weaknesses.
4. Those who give you zips—definitely socialistic, have shady pasts. A thorough investigation should begin with these men.
5. Those who give you -1's (and -2's)—catch these quick. They're not only tainted red, they have definite ringleader tendencies.

A weird-looking pile of tree limbs, scrap lumber, and metal dubbed "The Incuriosity Bedroom" has startled motorists stopping for a second unbelieving glance.

An inhabitant of Aberdeen, Miss., said he built the 50-foot-high traffic-stopper because he "didn't have anything else to do."

The curious structure resembles a giant-sized pile of jackstraws, with tangled metal and spires. It looks like a slight breeze would blow it down but the builder vows the "thing" is as strong as steel.

Auto hub caps, license plates, gourds, and advertising signs decorate the "building" and literally scream for attention when the wind blows.

Sykes said he decided to call it "The Incuriosity Bedroom" because "I got a bed up there in the top and I sleep there in the summertime."

Times have certainly changed. The council of Rockville, Conn., weeded from the city charter 40 ordinances considered obsolete or unnecessary, including one prohibiting operation of a wheel barrow at more than ten miles per hour.

Marquette University medical students have been swallowing thermometers to aid in research on the cause of ulcers.

The idea being that temperature of the stomach tells what is happening to the supply of blood, which in turn indicates the formation of ulcers.

Of course, in order to be digestible, the thermometers were put inside a capsule.

A doctor at Tulane says smoking will not necessarily give you lung cancer for, he went on to say, it may cause a heart attack first.

There is so much to read about the bad effects of smoking that the best thing to do is to give up reading.

At the circus, a very studious looking Harvard man went to the camel enclosure, carefully selected a straw from among the litter and placed it on the camel's back. He waited a moment and then stalked on muttering "That wasn't the one."

And now for a few quickies: A Chrysanthemum called by any other name would be easier to spell . . . Money does not grow on trees but limbs have a way of attracting it . . . Opportunity knocks only once but temptation bangs on the door constantly.

## Boston University Fires Professor

Boston University has fired a professor named by the FBI last November as a link in a Communist espionage ring in high U.S. government officials.

Prof. Maurice Halperin was dismissed "for the good of Boston University" after he failed several times to appear before a school review board assigned to consider his "fitness to teach."

Reached in Mexico City by the Boston Herald, Halperin said:

"It is very much to be regretted that Boston University has succumbed to the ways of hysteria, manipulated by unscrupulous politicians. It has done a disservice to its own good name and to the cause of academic freedom."

## Trabue Supervises Safety Ed Conference

Marion R. Trabue, dean of the College of Education is conducting the annual meeting of the national commission on safety education which opened yesterday and will continue until tomorrow in Washington, D.C. The commission is a branch of the National Education Association.

## Tonight on WDFM

- 7:25 Sign on Prevue
- 7:30 Marquee Memories
- 8:00 Record Prevue
- 8:15 Just for Two
- 9:00 Semi-Pops
- 9:15 News
- 9:30 Dance Party
- 10:30 Sign off