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The Daily Collegian

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I. Seating Plan: A Backward Glance

(First of two editorials concerning the new Recreation Hall seating plan.)

The Recreation Hall seating plan controversy is raging again with the characteristic amount of misinformation. The plan is designed to provide a small number of seats for non-students at indoor athletic events.

The only real solution to the limited seating in Rec Hall is construction of a new University field house. Some day, that field house may be a reality. But a non-existent field house will not solve the seating problem now.

Any discussion of an athletic seating plan must proceed from the premises that it is desirable to give a limited number of seats to non-students. Unless this is agreed upon, it is unnecessary to work out a plan for such seating.

Within reasonable limits, it is desirable to give some non-students a chance to see University indoor athletic events. We students, who are always asking for better student-faculty-townsperson relations, can accomplish something toward those relations by allowing such a plan. Then too, it seems only fair to allow those who help support Penn State's outdoor athletic program to have a chance to see at least the indoor program. And the University, in selling tickets to non-students, is able to realize some income to help make up deficits in the indoor program.

In 1947, as the student body outgrew the 5000 seating capacity of Rec Hall, the University closed indoor events to non-students. Under present plans, All-College Cabinet must approve changes in the seating arrangement. Approval of the present plan was given April 16 1953.

First proposals to establish a new seating plan were introduced at a cabinet dinner meeting in September, 1953, by Dean of Physical Education and Athletics Ernest B. McCoy. Those proposals were not put before the student body, and most students never knew of that meeting.

In October, 1953, McCoy proposed two plans formally. One would have split the student body, assuring half the seats for each game, and allowing seats for non-students. The other plan would have reserved 300 seats for non-students at indoor athletic events.

Students presented much opposition to both "McCoy plans." The idea of dividing the student body in half was disliked because, under that plan, only half of the student body would have tickets for each indoor event. This would mean some students would be deprived of a chance to see events so non-students could be

given the chance. The idea of reserving 300 seats for non-students irked those who felt non-students could take "pot-luck for seats, as students must.

The seating plan now in operation was adopted by cabinet on April 16 after recommendation by Athletic Association President Joseph Lemyre. That recommendation was to give students three or four days before indoor events to exchange athletic book coupons for tickets to those events. The exchange would take place on the day of the event. Non-students also would be given a chance to buy tickets on the day of the event.

Cabinet favored the plan, 17-6, and it went into operation this month. Now there is much confusion on just what the plan means, and how it works.

There has been misunderstanding by both students and administration on how many seats non-students may purchase. Some have said All-College Cabinet minutes prescribe a minimum of 300 tickets for sale to non-students. This simply is not true, and this cannot be substantiated in cabinet minutes.

One of cabinet's chief complaints against the seating plan was that it guaranteed a specific number of seats to non-students. The adopted plan was designed to allow distribution of student tickets first. Then, the difference between the student tickets exchanged and Rec Hall seating capacity would determine how many tickets could be placed on sale to the public.

A detailed Athletic Association survey last year showed students rarely filled Rec Hall to capacity. This meant waste of seats that could have been profitably used. How to best use those otherwise unused seats was the University problem.

Now, glaring faults in the adopted plan have come to light. Students are forced to stand in lines to exchange coupons for tickets, and the exchange does not reflect how many will attend the event. The University realizes it cannot bar students from events.

The first event in which the tickets plan was used drew 60 non-students. There were many empty seats. At Saturday's doubleheader, Rec Hall was overflowing and non-students were using student seats. Many were forced to stand.

If the seating plan was working, some of this emptiness and overflow would be eliminated. The plan has been termed "almost perfect." It is terribly far from perfect. In fact, it is a flop.

Tomorrow's concluding editorial will present a new plan that might solve the Rec Hall seating problem.

I. Saturday Classes: First Two Points

(This is the first of two editorials concerning Saturday classes at the University.)

Even though the University will have Saturday classes next semester, a few facts have come to light which seem to prove a full program of Saturday classes at the University is not needed and cannot be justified.

Only recently, the University issued official reasons why a return to Saturday classes for most students was favored. The reasons:

1. To make better use of classrooms and laboratories; 2. To have a more open schedule with a day between classes in the same course; 3. To arrange free hours at 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for meetings; and 4. It was believed that the previous schedule was encouraging many students to take long weekends off campus without doing any studying.

The procedure here will be to use these reasons given by the administration of the University as the centroid of discussion.

Regarding the first reason, research has revealed that about 1067 courses were offered this semester in about 2530 sections. Under the new sequences next semester, about 1115 courses will be offered in about 2498 sections.

Since the use of the University buildings on campus is dependent upon the number of sections, it seems that under the new schedule, less use will be made of campus buildings than with the scheduling sequences used now.

Once upon a time, the statement circulated questioning how the University could justify the need for more buildings when sufficient use was not being made of present buildings. The barb was directed at campus emptiness Saturday mornings.

Yet, how will the campus appear under the new system Tuesday and Thursday afternoons? Unless skiing down the Mall is allowed in winter and skating in summer, it's doubtful that a student will be found especially near Liberal Arts buildings those afternoons.

The desire for a more open schedule, with a day between classes in the same course, seems to be the only near-reasonable reason given for

Saturday classes. It does seem as if a day should be provided between class meetings of the same course for a student to study on his own.

Though desirable this set-up is not absolutely necessary. There are alternatives.

For example, a class which now meets on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning could be rescheduled to meet on Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon. This would eliminate the present lack of time to prepare classwork. The same system could be applied to other sequences scheduling classes in two consecutive days.

The last two reasons given for the renewal of Saturday classes will be discussed in an editorial tomorrow.

—Len Goodman

Gazette . . .

Today
CHESS CLUB, 7 p.m., 3 Sparks.

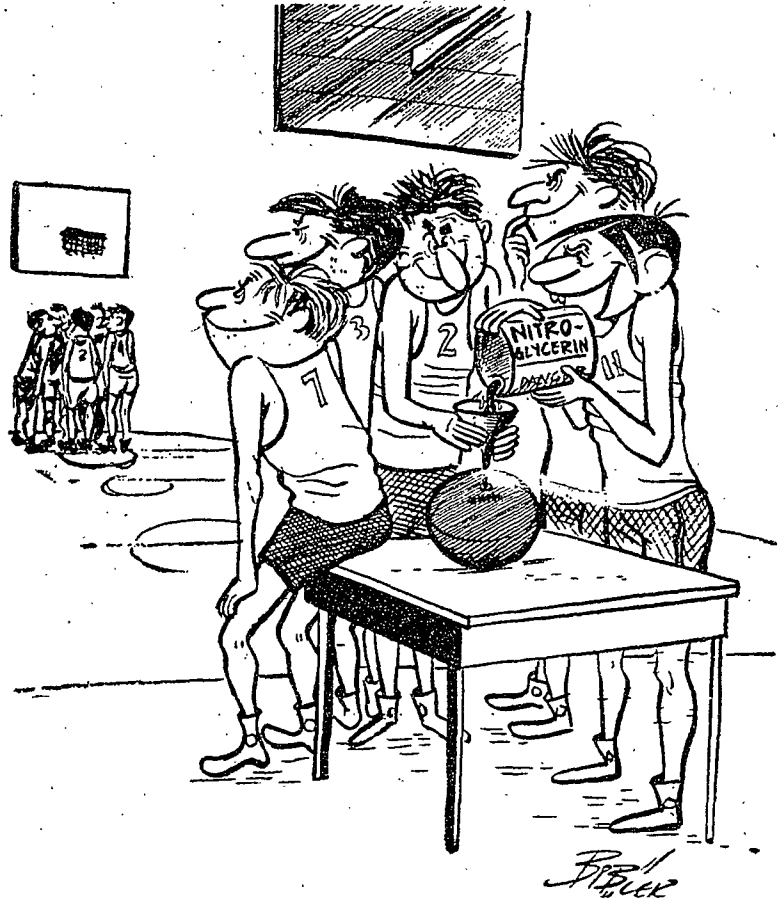
Tomorrow
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS, 7 p.m., 105 Ag. Eng. Building.

INFIRMARY
Joseph Chico, Geraldine D'Alio, Arnold Dalton, Jerome Feinberg, Louis Galliker, Brenna Hartman, William Hastings, Maryetta Henderson, Samuel Johnston, Myrtle Ann Mason, Dean Moyer, Robert Osborne, James Rich, Archie Sirianni, Catherine Stewart, Andrew Subashi, Everett Weidner, James Wyatt, William Yoder.

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

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



Glancing Around

At Graduation

By DICK RAU

The time has come to say goodbye. In the term of the vernacular, it's been real. Real what, I won't go into. By the standards of all good journalistic cliches, this should be called the swan song.

However, due to the crow-like construction of my neck, I find this terminology somewhat difficult to apply, if not downright misleading.

When Glancing Around started, I had absolutely no idea what direction it would take. The condition hasn't changed any.

Come Jan. 27, I expect to be told that I worked so these many years for a college education, and now I am to go out into the cold, cruel, unyielding world to carve my niche in society. This I already know.

A few weeks ago, when the new timetables went on sale, I almost bought one. Then I remembered I am supposed to leave. Therefore, in a burst of optimism, I refused. Looking back on the past three and a half years, there are a few things which I shall never forget. Such as the time I had a final scheduled in History of the Far East at 8 a.m. That morning, I woke up at 8:40. Memories such as this, I can do without.

There is also such a thing as the coffee hour, enjoyed in this land of awkward schedules. The hour does not necessarily have to be scheduled at any particular time like the tea hour in Britain.

On one such occasion, I talked a friend into having coffee with me at the TUB. He didn't want to go, I talked some more. He repeated that he didn't like coffee, and furthermore, even if he did like coffee, he still wouldn't go.

I talked some more. He started to weaken. I persisted. He finally broke down and decided to go along with the stipulation that he would have tea.

After arriving at the TUB and procuring our beverages, my friend proceeded to poke around the cup at his teabag. When he pulled the string which was attached to the teabag, he received a bit of a jolt. The end of the string waved sneeringly back and forth above the rim of the cup.

The bag, unfortunately, was resting comfortably on the bottom. Enraged at this act of insubordination, my friend grabbed his spoon and proceeded to haul up the reluctant bag. This action produced another unexpected result. The bag broke.

My friend has since developed a taste for coffee.

Experiences of this type I can cherish forever, so long as they happen to someone else.

Another friend of mine is a kindly soul. Recently, in an office, he came across a mutual friend of ours who had the misfortune of breaking his ankle and is at the moment confined to crutches.

My first friend expressed sympathy and asked the injured how he could get along on crutches and carry books, too.

The injured replied that he managed to get along all right and let the matter drop. Later, the solicitous one carefully picked up a notebook and a bunch of papers and folders from the desk and carried them outside.

At the parting of the ways, the kindly one turned to the injured one and said: "Well, here's your stuff."

"That isn't mine."

The kindly one carried ungraded assignments and grade book back to the office. Since I arrived here there have been a couple of changes. After years of paying money for a Student Union building, the students have had the opportunity of seeing a magnificent hole dug. The next thing on the agenda called for filling up the hole, which is now being done. In the future, a new name will be chosen. Student Union building won't do.

Speaking of names reminds me of the story of the year—changing the name of the College to University. After all this time spent working for a college education, I now have a university education with little or no extra sweat.

However, names may come and names may go, but Pollock Circle is still here.

Opposition Seen For Strike Poll

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—President Eisenhower's proposal for government conducted vote on strikes was in trouble in Congress today even before the plan was fully clarified. There were some predictions that it never would pass.

Sen. Ives of New York, second ranking Republican on the Senate labor committee expressed strong opposition to any such polls. His position could be decisive since Republicans hold only a single vote margin on the committee and a number of Democrats probably would line up with him.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES
7:25 Sign on Prevue
7:30 Sir Herbert Read
8:30 Seque Session
9:15 Campus News
9:30 Columbia Masterworks
10:30 Sign off