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The Daily Collegian

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II. Seating Plan: A Forward Glance

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

Despite claims to the contrary, the present Recreation Hall seating plan does not work, and never will work in its present form.

The idea behind a seating plan is to allocate some seats for non-students at indoor athletic events. The ideal situation would be to determine the number of students planning to attend an indoor event, and to sell the remaining seating space to non-students. This is a principle in the present plan provided for in early exchange of student tickets. But the plan has already proven faulty.

There is no way to determine with much accuracy how many students will attend indoor sporting events. Such factors as other social activities, examinations, and weather often determine attendance. Attempts in the present plan to determine student attendance have failed. Under the ticket exchange plan, students secure tickets in case they may want to go to the event. In the two times the plan has been employed, hundreds have exchanged tickets and failed to attend events.

The University cannot close the ticket exchange period before the event for two reasons: 1. All-College Cabinet approved the plan on the basis that the tickets would be sold on the day of the event; and 2. Each student must pay for an athletic book, and the University cannot refuse him admittance to an event for which he has already paid admission.

Under the present system, students stand in lines to exchange tickets at the Athletic Association office, and more students stand in more lines to exchange more tickets at Rec Hall prior to game time. But no accurate count of student attendance is made, or can be made. As a result, tickets are sold to any number of non-students.

Over 5000 students exchanged tickets for Saturday night's sports doubleheader. Enough students attended the event to fill all seats. Yet tickets were still sold to over 200 non-students. This so crowded Rec Hall that spectators stood two deep around the balcony and five or six deep on one end of the main floor. And this condition was called "almost perfect" because no one was turned away. This situation was far from perfect.

A more logical solution to the seating problem

is possible. The seating plan is not near success if—as with last week's basketball game—Rec Hall is empty sometimes, and—as with Saturday's double-header—overflowing at other times. A real seating plan could eventually equalize this.

The logical solution is to allocate about 300 seats for non-students at most indoor events. The original seating plan was to reserve 300 seats for non-students. However, under the new suggestion, those seats would not be reserved. They would be general admission seats, and purchasers would take their chances on getting a seat, as students must.

Past experience shows student attendance does not appreciably fill Rec Hall except on weekends, or in the event of doubleheaders. If a maximum of 300 seats should prove unsatisfactory, the number could be quickly adjusted. If Penn State should produce a championship basketball or boxing team, and student attendance rose, sale of tickets to non-students could be diminished. And in the event of double-headers, sale of tickets to non-students could be abolished.

This system would require repeated adjustment. But as experience in attendance grew, the correct number of tickets to be put on sale could be more easily determined. The maximum of tickets to be placed on sale could be set by the Athletic Association, subject to All-College Cabinet's jurisdiction.

Under this plan, some chance of empty seats or overflow attendance would remain. But it would not be as fluctuating as it is now, it would provide some non-student seats at almost every indoor event, and it would stop the senseless ticket exchange which does no good.

Under the present set-up, there is no seating plan! Any student may attend, but he must trouble himself to secure a ticket. And any non-student may attend, since tickets are being sold, regardless of student-ticket exchanges.

A plan to sell a variable maximum of general admission seats to the public is feasible. Experience with such a plan would gradually improve its operation. The present plan is inoperative. All-College Cabinet must reconsider the seating question and present some modification if it pretends to serve the best interests of the student body.

II. Saturday Classes: Last Two Points

(The last of two editorials concerning Saturday classes at the University.)

Arranging free hours for meetings at 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays does not seem to be an advantage over the present set-up. Under present class sequences, there are usually four days with no classes at 4 p.m. The advantage in having two open hours for meetings rather than four is indeed a mystery.

A much better suggestion seems to lie in the possibility of scheduling the many evening exams during the free hours not included in any sequence. There were 43 evening exams scheduled for the fall semester by the end of the first week of that semester. Yet even here the four 4 p.m. hours are better than the two under the new schedule.

If, on the other hand, the idea is to reschedule extra-curricular activity meetings, seminars, and miscellaneous classes and tests held in the evenings to those two free hours, the effect might be damaging. About ten per cent of these sessions are for one hour, and the rest for up to four hours.

The final reason stated deserves special mention. It was stated that the previous schedule was encouraging many students to take long weekends off campus without doing any studying.

First, is there any guarantee that students will study even though they remain on campus? The courses themselves ultimately determine student interest and long weekends.

For, if a student is more interested in long weekends than a college education, he can still avoid Saturday classes, even if a worthwhile course is offered at that time. Yet, the number of those taking long weekends seems somewhat exaggerated. An estimate of one weekend claimed 50 per cent of the dormitories were empty that weekend.

The paternal instinct of the administration in this matter is touching, but it should be remembered that ultimate responsibility for studies remains with the individual student. —Len Goodman

Gazette . . .

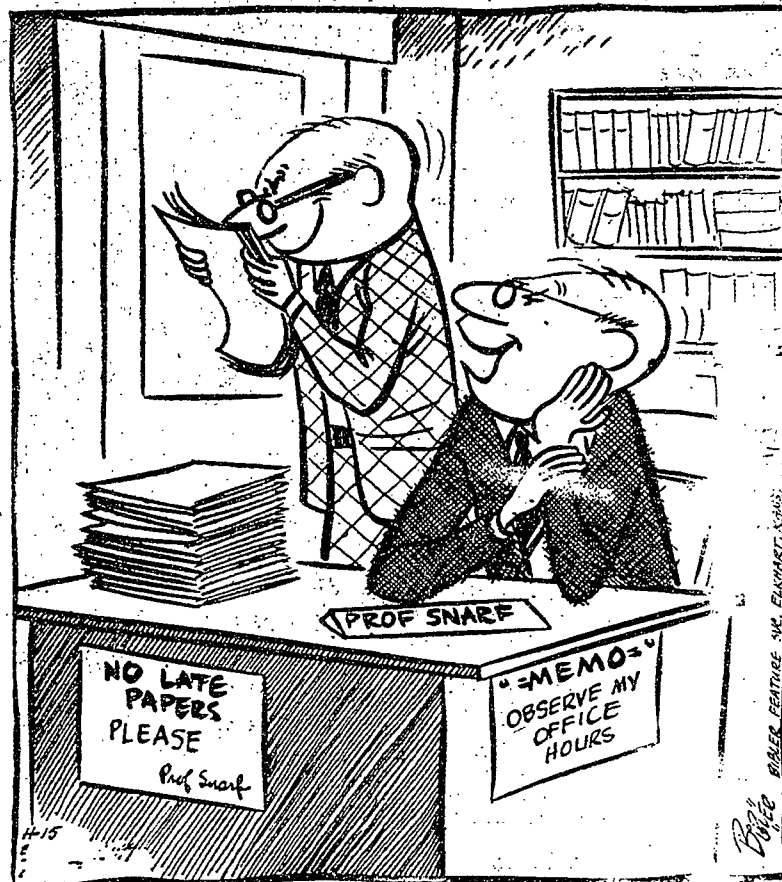
Today
ED 7:30 p.m., 103 Willard.
NEWS AND VIEWS STAFF AND CANDIDATES' 6:30 p.m., 14 Home Economics.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

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



"I always write my term paper criticisms illegibly so th' student won't be able to take issue with what I say."

Interpreting the News

U.S. Policy to Rely On Atomic Weapons

By J. M. ROBERTS Jr.
Associated Press News Analyst

Russia and Red China are now on notice from the United States that they can no longer promote wars abroad without expecting to suffer war at home.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles expressed it as an intent to offer swift and massive retaliation at the will of the United States.

The American military organization already is being planned that way. He was clarifying the manner in which it may be used. He already had warned that direct Chinese intervention in Indo-China would be met by direct American attack on China, as would a resumption of the Korean war. Now the implication is clear that the United States will launch atomic war at the base of the aggressor in any situation where an attack represents a sufficient threat to the free world. No specific commitment is made, but neither are there any specific exceptions which might encourage the Reds to miscalculate American intent as they did in Korea.

This is a momentous statement. It marks an estimate by the administration that the situation has reached a turning point toward which the free world has been working for years. It says America now has, or will have in the immediate future, the ability which it once so sadly lacked to back its diplomacy with real power.

President Eisenhower describes it as a "fundamental truth." This statement of position is bound to have a powerful effect on Russian policy from now on. She will have to calculate any move she desires to make with regard to the seriousness with which it will be taken by the United States. She will have to realize that a miscalculation will make her the target for fearful retaliation.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
7:25	Sign on Prevue
7:30	Adventures in Research
7:45	Open Meeting
8:00	Record Prevue
8:15	Lest We Forget
8:30	Hamburger Stand
9:00	Semi-Pops
9:15	Campus News
9:30	Ballet Theater
10:30	Sign off

INSTRUCTORS ARE NEEDED

Elementary High School and College

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED in all sections of the country—salary range from \$3,000 to \$7,000

Send Qualifications to:

CLINE TEACHERS AGENCY

East Lansing, Michigan
Box 607

For your meal out
Make it a

Tasty Plate Dinner
—and popular dessert

served 5-9 weekdays at

The Corner
... unusual

Party Cookies and Sandwiches

Plan your parties in good taste

You'll hear your guests oh and ah when you serve our beautiful canapes and open-faced sandwiches. Your table will be lovelier and your guests will be pleased when they taste our delicious and decorative party cookies.

Party Sandwiches
Pin Wheels—pink, yellow, green 75c per dozen
Open Faced \$1.00 per dozen

Party Cookies 20c per dozen

Glenn's PASTRY SHOP
239 S. Allen St. Phone 3121