

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings inclusive during the University year by the staff of The Daily Collegian of the Pennsylvania State University

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1877

Collegian editorials represent the viewpoint of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the newspaper. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

Entered as second-class matter July 6, 1924 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

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Decentralized Voting: Worth a Try

Now that the All-College elections committee has tentatively set April 7 and 8 as dates for Spring elections, the question of decentralized voting systems and its manifestations again arises.

In past years, campus balloting has been done at one centralized point, usually in Old Main, on the theory that this point is the easiest for students to reach when they wish to cast ballots. In the past few years, however, members of both the Lion and State parties have been talking about a system of decentralized voting.

The basic idea behind any plan for decentralized voting is that the more places there are to vote, the more students will cast ballots. Some persons who want the decentralized system are speaking in terms of eight or ten balloting areas. Others suggest only about four.

This latter plan seems to have much merit.

A four-area decentralized voting plan, for example, could operate with polls in Old Main, for town students and some women's dorms; polls in the West Dorms, for the residents and others who use the lounges and snack bar there; polls in the TUB, for convenience of Nittany-Pollock residents and women in Simmons and

McElwain; and polls in the Agriculture Building for agriculture and forestry students who are not often down-campus.

Such a four-area plan could do as much as could be done to make it easier for the student to vote.

Under the plan, a student could vote in any one of the areas. Election committee workers at the polls would punch the matriculation card of the voter so he could not vote at more than one polling place. A two-day period for voting would be maintained, as in the past.

There is no way of knowing now whether this plan will work, or if it will work well enough to merit its continued use. But there is only one way to find out: the plan must be tried.

If, under a decentralized voting system, a substantial increase in the percentage of students voting is not seen, then the one-poll system can be re-instated. It would, of course, be the election committee's responsibility to determine what a "substantial increase" in voting was.

It does little or no good continually to discuss the merits of a decentralized or a centralized voting system; this has been done already. The only way to find out whether it will work is to try it. When the election committee has the facts, it can decide on the best system.

A decentralized system has worked at other universities. Perhaps it will work here. But we must try. We cannot hesitate to make any sensible attempt to increase student interest in student government; we cannot hesitate to give student government more backing.

This plan is feasible—let's try it.

—Marshall O. Donley

On Athletic Policy

A refreshing clarification of Penn State athletic policy was given last week by Ernest B. McCoy, dean of the College of Physical Education and Athletics.

McCoy's statement was clarification of a policy made some time ago by the University in an economy move. That policy said only Eastern champions would be permitted to participate for Penn State in national championship competition.

There was much student criticism of that policy when announced. Many felt sending only Eastern champions to national competition would kill Penn State's chances for national titles in most events. McCoy, not yet on campus when that policy was announced, obviously agrees with this student point of view.

McCoy's clarification explained that not only would Eastern champions travel to national events, but so would any team member whom the coach honestly thought would have a chance to bring Penn State points.

This is good news to the many who feared Penn State's defending national championship wrestling and gymnastics teams would not enter national competition as teams. McCoy has assured the student body that any Penn State athletic team defending a national title will compete as a team, regardless of the number of Eastern champions.

It is good to know that Penn State will not sacrifice its chances for athletic success merely to conform to this policy. One reason for an athletic budget is to produce creditable teams. It seems senseless to produce creditable teams, and then, for economy's sake, devoid them of the chance to do the institution credit. This clarification has been much needed.

Gazette . . .

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Graduate student in EE wanted for part-time laboratory work.

The following companies will interview prospective counselors. Students may sign up at the Student Employment Service: Delwood—Feb. 17; Barree—Feb. 24; Trail's End—Feb. 27; Hiram House—March 2; Abington YMCA—March 16.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

THREE DIVISIONS OF U.S. STEEL CORP. will interview graduating seniors in Chem., Phys., ChE, Aero, E, CE, EE, IE, ME, SE, & Mngt. E, Math., Ceramics, Geology & Mineralogy, Min., Prep., Metal., PNG, and for sales Bus. Adm., Industrial Psy., and L.A. on Feb. 18.

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORP. (Research Labs. & Atomic Power Div.) representatives will interview Ph.D. candidates in Chem., Math., Metal., Phys., ChE, ME & EE expecting to receive their degrees in 1954; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on Feb. 19.

E. I. DUPONT will visit the campus to interview graduating seniors in Chem., Comm. Chem., Phys., Science, ChE, EE, IE, ME, and Mining Engr. on Feb. 22, 23, 24.

EASTMAN KODAK CO. will interview graduating seniors and M.S. candidates who have completed at least one semester in Bus. Adm., Acctg., Bus. Mngt., Eco., Finance, Trade & Transportation, Chem., Phys., Science, Math., ChE, EE, IE, ME on Feb. 22 and 23.

FEDERAL AGENCY ENGAGED IN NATIONAL SECURITY WORK will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., A&L (Eco., History, Pol. Science), Languages (not Romance), Geography, and Secretarial Science on Feb. 22 and 23.

BETHLEHEM STEEL CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME, CE, ChE, EE, IE, Mining Engr., Metal, Ceramics, and a few students in Purchasing, Acctg., Finance and Industrial & Public Relations on Feb. 22 and 23.

CLEVITE CORP. (Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co. and Brush Electronics Co.) will interview graduating seniors in Acctg., Bus. Mngt., Chem., Phys., Metal., ChE, EE, IE, and ME on Feb. 22.

WESTINGHOUSE AIR BRAKE COMPANY (Industrial Products and Air Brake Divisions) will interview graduating seniors in ME and a few outstanding EE on Feb. 22.

GENERAL RAILWAY SIGNAL CO. will interview graduating seniors in EE, IE, ME on Feb. 23.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm. and Liberal Arts on Feb. 23.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORP. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., Liberal Arts and Education on Feb. 23.

AMERICAN SUGAR REFINING CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME, IE, Chem., Engr., Acctg., and A&L on Feb. 23.

MAGNOLIA PETROLEUM CO. will interview graduating seniors in P.N.G., and Mining Engr. on Feb. 23.

PITTSBURGH PLATE GLASS CO. (paint div.) will interview graduating seniors in Chem., Commercial Chem., Bus. Mngt., ME, ChE; M.S. candidates who have completed at least one semester in Chem. and Chem. Engr. and Ph.D. candidates expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 in Chem. and ChE on Feb. 23.

NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION, INC. (Downey, Calif.) will interview graduating seniors in Phys., EE, ME, CE, Aero. Engr., and General Engr.; M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester; and Ph.D. candidates in the above fields expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 on Feb. 24 and 25.

AMERICAN STORES CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME, CE, EE on Feb. 24.

CHAS. PFIZER & CO., INC. will interview graduating seniors in Chem. (Analytical), ChE, and IE; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on Feb. 24.

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, INC. will interview graduating seniors in Fuel Tech., ME, and ChE on Feb. 24.

SPERRY GYROSCOPE CO. will interview graduating seniors in Phys., Aero Engr., EE, and ME on Feb. 24.

WEIRTON STEEL CO. will interview graduating seniors in Metal, and ChE on Feb. 24.

WAGNER ELECTRIC CORP. will interview graduating seniors in ME and EE on Feb. 24.

ALLIS-CHALMERS will interview graduating seniors in EE, IE, & ME on Feb. 25.

MONSANTO CHEMICAL CO. will interview graduating seniors in Chem., ChE, EE, ME on Feb. 25.

MINNESOTA MINING & MANUFACTURING CO. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., Bus. Mngt., Finance, Trade and Transportation, Marketing, Chem., Comm. Chem., ChE, EE, IE, ME, A&L, Ceramics and Metallurgy on Feb. 25.

STANDARD OIL DEVELOPMENT CO. (Esso research center) will interview graduating seniors in Chem., ChE, Fuel Tech., ME, EE (Power), & CE; M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester; and Ph.D. candidates in the above fields expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 on Feb. 25.

ANCHOR HOOKING GLASS will interview graduating seniors in Acctg., Bus. Mngt., Marketing, Arch. E., IE, CE, & ME on Feb. 25.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Oh, Snarf isn't such a bad teacher—I had his course almost two weeks before I dropped it."

Excursion 1: Introduction

Walden Sea

By LEN GOODMAN

No doubt, at one time or another, most of us have heard of Henry David Thoreau, Yankee apostle of individualism. His works are fairly well-known, though not as well-known nor as widely read as they once were, and possibly should be.

Asserting that the individual had a moral obligation to resist when government pursued what he considered a wrong course of action, Thoreau had no choice other than to escape to Walden Pond, or to be forever landing in jail as he pursued his philosophy. Thus, Walden Pond became his "retreat," in both senses of the word.

Today is a far cry from the relatively incomplex era of Thoreau's Walden Pond; and how changed are so many of our values and aspirations. Yet, it is because of these changes, rather than in spite of them, that the importance of Thoreau's message—at least in part—is magnified.

But, since you have successfully read this far, having first escaped the beguiling ways of Bibler and Prof. Snarf, you should be rewarded with a straight-forward statement of the biases and prejudices that this column will promote. It may persuade you to read further, or prevent the accident from happening again.

My main concern—or "beef," if you wish—is the individualism, or lack thereof, in the makeup of the modern American. Yes, it's a time-worn thesis, but the peculiar manifestations of it today are well-worth the time of reading and the effort of writing.

But, the purpose is not to preach, or exhort, or to chastize: there may be ranting, but never raving. Rather, let's review the dangers to, and the pitfalls of, a "modern individualism"; the need for such expression by both the democratic man and the democratic society; and the possibilities and probabilities of success.

Here, then, are the three aspects of "Walden Sea":

1. Attainment of peace of mind in a hum-drum world—without escaping;

2. Attainment of an attitude conducive to reflection—without losing common sense;

3. Assertion of one's own personality rather than mirroring the whims and fancies of Society (with the capital "S")—while not neglecting one's duties to society.

Number 3 may be helped if we attempt—once or twice—to escape the cult of Advertising, and the altar of the "market-place psychology." By this I mean the effort expended to sell the personality would be better spent in its development. But, this will probably be the most difficult of the obstacles to overcome.

Keep in mind, however, that Walden Sea is any place that af-

fords such a state of mind, though it may afford more than just an attitude, even though how much more is not quite certain.

And, keep in mind, too, that this is a far cry from anarchism, or most any other formulated "-ism" of the day. There's no such implication: "Workers of the world, disunite!"

2 Frenchmen Dive 2 1/2 Miles Into Atlantic

PARIS, Feb. 15 (AP) — Two French naval officers today dived farther beneath the ocean's surface than man has ever probed before. They plunged their 35-ton bathyscaph more than 2 1/2 miles into the Atlantic off West Africa.

Lt. Cmdr. Georges Houot and engineer Pierre Henri Willm made their second spectacular world plunge in six months—this time to a depth of 13,288 feet 160 miles off Dakar in the South Atlantic. They beat by 2949 feet—more than half a mile—the previous record set by Swiss Professor August Piccard and his son, Jacques, last September in the Tyrrhenian Sea division of the Mediterranean off Naples, Italy.

The Frenchmen spent six hours below the surface today.

Houot and Willm used one of Piccard's old bathyscaphs, given to the French by the Belgian navy. It performs something like a free balloon, only in the opposite direction. It operates from a mother ship to which it is not attached, navigating freely when submerged by using small electric motors.

Reading Festival Tryouts

Students may sign up for the April Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Reading Festival at 6:30 tonight in 304 Sparks.

Tryouts will be held next Tuesday.

Tonight on WDFM

Time	Program
7:25	Sign on
7:30	Informally Yours
8:00	Record Prevue
8:15	Call Card
8:30	Tops in Pops
9:00	Semi-pops
9:15	Campus News
9:30	Letter from Korea (BBC)
10:30	Sign off