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The Daily Collegian

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A Hearty Welcome—University Style

Welcome. Once again, the University rolls out the welcome mat for a new crop of students and welcomes them to membership in the Penn State family. This year, however, the Alma Mater is extremely proud for she is receiving the first class, the Class of 1958, to enter as students at the Pennsylvania State University.

It was only last fall, November 13, that a court order gave Penn State university status. From 1874 until then students had enrolled at the Pennsylvania State College. Before that, they had come to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania from 1862 until 1874 and even before that to the Farmers' High School.

You, the Class of '58, mark the first group to enter the Pennsylvania State University. This does not mean your predecessors need be ashamed of attending and graduating from an institution that was not called a university. It does mean, however, you will enjoy to the utmost the results of the educational progress recognized by the bestowing of the title of University on Penn State.

Penn State was very proud of this when it happened since it marked 98 years of hard work and proved to be another step towards more hard work. Bursting with this pride it is that you are welcomed to the campus. The Penn

State family has been waiting ever since last fall to tell you about being a University, and what the new title implies.

Of course, now that you, the Class of '58, are in the family, it is expected you will take your rightful share of pride and help spread the fame of the University to all people. To do that the University is planning an extra big celebration next year, its Centennial year. You and the two classes ahead of you will be the only ones to see the entire, year-long birthday party.

Spreading the fame of the University does not mean going out and merely telling everyone how good it is here. You promote or discredit the University's good name by your actions. To outsiders, you are Penn State and are typical of the family here. You can, with equal ease, be a good example of the University or a bad one.

The University offers you unlimited opportunities as it welcomes you into the Penn State family and gives you for the asking the fruits of nearly 100 years of labor. All that is asked in return is that you act in a manner that will bring credit to yourself and to the school and will be good publicity during the Centennial year and always.

So, welcome.

—Diehl McKalip

Opportunities: As Big As The University

There are three ways for a student to get his name in a university newspaper. He may write letters to the editor. He may be involved in an unfortunate mishap of news value. Or he may "make the headlines" or bylines because of his achievement, whether it be a spot on the dean's list of his college or a position of campus leadership gained through efforts in the extra-curricular field.

Penn State's size often appears to be an unconquerable obstacle looming in the path of every new student who wants to be more than just another name in the student directory. However, because the University is large, there are limitless possibilities for meeting people and enjoying a gratifying and rewarding extra-curricular life. Any student who serves the University and his fellow students with his talents, information, and hard work will eventually be recognized for his accomplishments.

There are clubs and organizations on campus for every interest group from chess enthusiasts or cave explorers to aspiring politicians. By participating in these activities the student has an opportunity to make friends and gain information which may be useful after graduation in his professional career or his hobbies. Generally the students who most enjoy their extra-curricular life on campus are those who work hardest to do a good job.

Activities help students to achieve a sense of "belonging" at Penn State.

To those who would rush out to join almost every club which has been called to their attention, a word of caution should be heeded. It is difficult to get the most out of anything if time must be divided between a dozen obligations. And because of the great difference between high school and university academic standards, the first few semesters on campus should be devoted to establishing a firm foundation of high grades in courses.

If a student's average is too low, he is no longer eligible for activities. If it is below a certain point, he may be disqualified from some

particularly desirable activities with high requirements. Extra-curricular life should always be second in importance to studying.

Recommended for the newcomer to campus is a choice of one major or a few minor activities. Meanwhile, he should keep himself informed on campus affairs so that he knows about the functioning of All-University Cabinet, the top student legislative body, and his representatives who sit on cabinet. By following the day-to-day campus developments, he will be able to know and protect his rights as a member of the student electorate and will be "in the know" in case he should sometime find himself in a position of leadership.

If a new student on campus wishes to meet student leaders and personalities in the faculty and administration, he may later in the semester apply for an invitation to the informal coffee hours held about every two weeks in the Dean of Men's office. He may also attend meetings of cabinet and arrange introductions to its members. It all helps the individual student know that he is important and that his opinions are valuable.

The benefits derived from active participation in activities and campus affairs are many. But at a university the size of Penn State the student must take the initiative. Seldom will he be sought out or coaxed to participate.

Now, upon his arrival on campus, is the time for each student to think about activities and student government. Decisions made and patterns set now will determine how much enjoyment a student will have during his university career, how well-known he will become, or how much he will learn outside the classroom.

Every student at Penn State is "somebody" when he arrives; campus "nobodies" result only from indifference on the part of the individual.

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.—Benjamin Disraeli.

Never read any book that is not a year old.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Little Man on Campus

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