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The Daily Collegian

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University Needs Comprehensive Exams

The University Senate subcommittee on general education has, in its list of recommendations on education policy, hit upon one of the most significant failures of today's universities.

As its major proposal, the committee has recommended to Senate that candidates for baccalaureate degrees be required to take comprehensive examinations and prove competency in these exams before graduation. The tests, as proposed by the committee would be given by a "properly qualified" examining board at designated times throughout students' four-year periods at the University.

The exams would cover such academic areas as the physical, biological and social sciences; logic; skill in critical and effective reading and writing; appreciation of literature and the fine arts; and personal and community health.

Today's universities have for too long tolerated their ever-growing reputations of producing pseudo-encyclopediac graduates, who either know little about practical application of their general knowledge or have become so specialized in their curriculums that they are of little use outside their particular fields.

Some 20 or 30 years ago, a college degree held real value with employers and society in general. But today, for every hundred persons graduated from college, the value of degrees declines another notch. Employers are no longer impressed with a BS or BA degree; they are demanding masters degrees. Education and technical institutions, which once required master degrees of their employees, today take nothing less than a doctors degree.

The influx into colleges and universities in the past decade has been overwhelming. And schools have not been able to match enrollments with immediate additional facilities—expansion is a long-range project. As a result, the

burden has fallen upon professors who must divide several hours of instruction among hundreds of students, and upon students themselves, who have had to adjust from an individualistic educational program to one resembling mass production.

Today's college graduates have kept little of the fundamental knowledge they acquired in high school. Basic subjects studied in freshman and sophomore years at college have been dimmed by the time students reach their senior year. There is no reason, other than personal satisfaction, for a college student to retain knowledge from courses, once examinations and final grade marks have been completed.

And as a result, the majority of college students are graduating with excellent backgrounds in cramming, partying, bluffing, . . . and inevitably, forgetting.

Comprehensive exams, such as the committee has proposed, seem a plausible, and indeed an excellent answer to the blight that has been put on college educations. A student graduating under such an education policy could scarcely help but possess the essentials of physical and social sciences, critical judgment and appreciation, and both aesthetic and practical application.

Such a student, unless extremely warped, would be a fit and valuable addition to society . . . a society that needs wise and efficient members quite desperately. Such a student would be, in short, educated.

Obviously the time has come for educational institutions to once again put education first. The University would do well to give much thought to the proposed policy. A University degree, earned under such a program, will merit the distinction it's entitled to.

—Peggy McClain

Safety Valve—Opposes Burgess' Speech

TO THE EDITOR: Last week the Democrat Burgess of State College presented a hodge-podge of inaccuracies and false figures in a speech while attempting to prove that the Pennsylvania sales tax is unnecessary. A brief analysis of his statements provides the true state of affairs.

The Democrat Burgess stated that between \$200 to \$300 million was needed by the state for education. He was wrong, for the budget of the 1953-1955 biennium, according to the Governor's Office and the Budget Bureau, is \$436 million.

The Democrat Burgess stated that the sales tax brought in only \$50 to \$60 million. He was again wrong. The sales tax provides \$135 million per biennium.

The Democrat Burgess said that the Chesterman committee found the state could provide about \$100 million in savings if more efficient means of government were used, and he claimed these savings would be twice as much as the state collects from the present sales tax. He was wrong, and deliberately misleading.

Now if the Democrat Burgess had read the Chesterman report, he would know that this alleged savings of \$100 million would be projected over the next three bienniums. This means a biennial savings of only \$33½ million, and not \$100 million as he implied. No matter how I add it up, this possible savings of \$33½ million just isn't twice as much as the \$135

million the state collects from the present sales tax.

The speaker admits that "the tax legislation specifies that all revenue from the sales tax be used for the public schools." However, he said, "But instead of going directly to the public schools, it goes into a general fund."

The simple fact is that the money does go into the general fund, as does all of the money collected by the state, but the sales tax funds are earmarked for education. These funds are spent on education only.

The Democrat Burgess denied that the sales tax is the bulwark of the Pennsylvania school system, but let him try subtracting this \$135 million from our education program, and considering that our needs are even on the increase, see what he gets. Unless the Democrats wish to cripple our educational program, it is inconceivable that anyone could claim we don't need a sales tax. Where will the money come from? The Democrats, like Scarlett O'Hara, prefer to think about that tomorrow. We want to know now! The Republican Party has been straightforward with its program, while the Democrats equivocate behind false figures and meaningless phrases. Perhaps this is due to a lack of knowledge of our state affairs; we hope the misrepresentations were not deliberate.

—Ben Sinclair
President, Young
Republican Club
of Centre County

Gazette . . .

Today
COLLEGIAN AD STAFF, 6:30 p.m., 9 Carnegie Hall
COLLEGIAN BUSINESS CANDIDATES, 7 p.m., 10 Sparks
COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL CANDIDATES, 7 p.m., 1 Sparks
GERMAN CLUB, 7:30 p.m., McElwain Study Lounge
HOCKEY CLUB, 4 p.m., Holmes Field
NEWMAN CLUB RADIO PROGRAM, 7:30 p.m., WMAJ
PENN STATE BRIDGE CLUB, 7 p.m., T.U.B.
THETA SIGMA PHI, 8 p.m., 202 Willard
Tomorrow
ACCOUNTING CLUB MEETING, 7 p.m., Alpha Epsilon Pi
MODERN DANCE, 7 p.m., White Hall
UPPERCLASS BOWLING, 7 p.m., White Hall Bowling Alleys

UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT SERVICE
Those qualified for interviewing are: undergraduates who will receive degrees in January, 1955; M.S. candidates who have completed at least one semester of study; and Ph.D. candidates who will receive degrees in 1955. Arrangements for interviews may be made now in 112 Old Main.
GENERAL ELECTRIC: B.S. in EE, IE, ME, Phys., & Aero E. Oct. 14.
HASKINS & SELLS (Phila.): B.S. in Acctg. Oct. 14 & 15.
DU PONT: B.S. in Ch. E., Chem., Phys. & ME. Oct. 14 & 15.
SOCONY-VACUUM: B.S. in Ch. E., ME & Analytical Chem.; M.S. & Ph.D. in Analytical Chem. Oct. 15.
McDONNELL AIRCRAFT CORP.: B.S. in Aero. E., CE, EE, ME, Math., Phys., IE & Arch. E.; M.S. & Ph.D. in Aero. E., EE, CE, ME & Math. Oct. 18 & 19.
DU PONT: Ph.D. in Ch. E., Chem., Phys., ME, Ceramics & Metallurgy Oct. 19, 20, & 21.
STANDARD OIL OF INDIANA: B.S. in Ch. E.; M.S. & Ph.D. in Chem. Oct. 19.
MALLINCKRODT CHEM. WORKS: B.S., M.S. & Ph.D. in Chem., Metal., Ch. E., ME, EE & Comm. Chem. Oct. 19 & 20.
NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION (Columbus): B.S. & Ph.D. in Aero. E., ME, CE, EE & Arch. E.; M.S. in Math., Aero E., ME, CE, EE, Arch. E. Oct. 21.
OHIO DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS: B.S. in CE Oct. 20.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Your wife just called—you left your briefcase on th' back porch."

Pussy-footing to Fame

'Holly,' Siamese Cat, Will Star in TUB

By ALICE GRUBB

"Holly," a siamese cat owned by Orville Schmidt, assistant professor of forestry, has suddenly become a star on the Penn State campus.

"Holly" will play a primary role in Players' production of John Van Druten's "Bell, Book, and Candle," to begin a six-week run at 8 p.m. Friday in Temporary Union Building.

In the role of "Pyewacket," a cat with amazing powers of witchcraft, "Holly" has been very uncooperative in rehearsals by adlibbing with meows. Director Robert Reifsnieder, associate producer of dramatics, thought he had solved the problem Tuesday night when he gave "Holly" some sedative pills to calm her down, but they must have been mixed with a "no-do" pill, for "Holly" was livelier than ever and insisted on cutting up again in rehearsal.

Crazy Cat
But this is typical of "Holly," a cat with a mixed-up personality. She seems to have a complex about her value in life and insists on returning from each trip outdoors with a trophy in the form of a grasshopper or toad which she presents to the first person to cross her path.

As "Pyewacket" in "Bell, Book, and Candle," the cat is the pet of Gillian Holoroyd, acted by Alice Peterson, fifth semester arts and letters major. Miss Holoroyd is a modern witch in New York who has bewitched a man into falling in love with her. The sophisticated, college-educated witch is a vast improvement on the traditional hag. Her magic powers come from stroking her cat and mumbling the wish she desires.

Cat Is 'Familiar'
The cat is what is known in witchery as a "familiar," a pet which responds to its master's bidding.

"Pyewacket's" mystical powers manage to make life very difficult for Sheperd Henderson, acted by William Taylor, seventh semester arts and letters major, who finally discovers that he is in love with a witch. By this time the spell is complete and he finds himself unable to break away from her.

The play is further complicated

by dissention among a family of witches who live in a special New York witches' hostel where they do their "brewing" in a communal kitchen.

Tickets for "Bell, Book, and Candle" are \$1 and are available at the Student Union desk in Old Main.

Crews Announced

Crews for the play are properties, Florence Gemmill and Judith Walters, co-chairmen, Carol Eakin, Shirley Weltz, Barbara Deitrich, Nancy Marshall; sound, Antoinette Denisof, chairman, Dorothea Koldys, Grace Bonnett, John Henderson, James Kennedy; lights, Sylvia Brown, chairman, Peter Betley, Freida Schenkal, James Carol, Kenneth Cooper, Robert Kennedy.

Costumes

Costumes: Margaret Lloyd, chairman, Shirley Van Saut, Joan Bianchi, Gwen Neiditch, Roberta Knapp; construction, Gerald Denisof, chairman, Joyce Andruzar, Mariana Roth, Betsy Morill, Bart Estep, Roland Johnson.

Make-up, Connie Citron, chairman, Millicent Mershon; house, Robert Kokar, chairman, Ernest Swigget, Gertrude Kittleberger, Robert Luffy, Donald Brisbane, Barbara Stitler, Gail Kleppinger.

Advertising, Diane Thatcher and Jacqueline Mulcey, co-chairmen, Barbara Paulson, Ann Hadesty, Nancy Woodward, Nancy Glace, Donald Altemus, Patricia McLaughlin, Eric Proudfoot, Rhoda Resnich, Mary Lou Floyd, Joyce Faust, Loretta Hunter, Carole Stehman, Ronald Harris, James Huber, Margaret MacDonald, and Senora Fetterman.

20th Century Witches??
Players' presents
"Bell, Book, and Candle"
Center Stage in TUB
Opens Friday, Oct. 15

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