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The Daily Collegian

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Cooperative Education: Need for Students

The instituting of a solid cooperative education program could be a "shot in the arm" for the University.

We imagine a student seriously interested in becoming an engineer would jump at an opportunity to supplement his college education with practical experience in working for an engineering firm.

For he would realize that while the college education he receives in engineering techniques is probably very well taught—and assimilated—it is only academic.

A chance to work part of his school year for an acknowledged industrial firm, to gain experience complementing his school knowledge, and to learn any facets of the work not taught in classes is a chance very few serious-minded students would pass over.

In devoting this editorial to the engineering profession, we mean merely that it is in this profession that we foresee the greatest opportunity for carrying out objectives of this program. All the colleges, particularly business administration and chemistry and physics, could undertake such a plan and probably do wonders.

The importance of such a program cannot be understated. For the past decade the nation's newspapers and magazines have been wildly decrying the shortage of engineers and trained manpower the United States as compared with reports of what the Soviet Union claims in numbers of engineers.

If a college or university can turn out more competently trained engineers, and more engineers, in a shorter time using a cooperative education program than one not using such a program—it is an accomplishment.

Every mechanical engineer, every industrial engineer, every chemical engineer, every electrical engineer graduated from college to "take his place" in the working world is another feather in the United States' cap of science and industry.

And one cannot dispute that this is vitally important.

Just how can a cooperative education program work to produce such results? What are the points in favor of it and those against it? Do the points in favor outweigh those against?

The University's industrial engineering department is one of the few, if not the only, department of the College of Engineering and Architecture to use a type of cooperative education program. A few selected students are sent to work for one semester with the York Corporation or the New Holland Machine Co. and undertake their regular classes for the remaining semester.

As far as this program goes, it works out very well, according to a department spokesman. But there are many reasons why the program or other variations aren't carried out further in the industrial engineering department or any of the other engineering departments.

They are good reasons. However, we believe the importance of such a program outweighs all objections to it.

In order to complete the required schooling, anyone participating in a cooperative education program must take five or more instead of the usual four years of college. This is a hindrance to young engineers wanting to get out into the working world as quickly as possible. As such, it is undesirable.

But why? Students who spend half their college careers in the drafting rooms or laboratories of some firm surely aren't wasting time. They are working for the firm, often a government

corporation, and are getting paid for it. A guy, and we are not excluding gals, who spends two or two and a half years working at his chosen job before he graduates surely shouldn't mind spending another year in school before beginning to attempt to make his mark. This person has begun to make his mark in his freshman year.

There are other objections, many more plausible. The University would have difficulty working out a class schedule for such a student. He probably would be taking required classes in odd semesters and there would be so few enrolled that the class quota couldn't be filled.

The student would most definitely have to go to summer school, also. But to a student who is all for the program, this is a stipulation he wouldn't mind too much—if at all.

Another problem connected with this is that, because of the short summer studies' time, the engineering college cannot present complete or efficient summer curricula.

Could there be assurance students working for semesters at industrial and scientific companies would be getting the experience they should be getting. Or, in other words, would it be worth it?

Also, since at present engineering students are doing well in their courses and learning what they should and are getting paid well for their summer jobs, why go to all the extra trouble and expense to start a program which in the long end accomplishes what they are already getting?

A final objection: Students undertaking a cooperative education program would work, work, work. They would get very few generalized courses in other colleges or departments. Their college lives would be broken up in the jumping back and forth from college to company. They would become efficient automatons.

These objections are formidable. But we refuse to think that when the stakes are so high, when this program appears to be of vital-national, even—importance that the difficulties could not be resolved, the rough edges smoothed.

If enough time, effort, and money were devoted to initiating this program, the results would be worth it. We won't attempt to work out the methods difficulties could be done away with. That isn't our purpose at the moment.

Of course, to work well in a university of some 14,000 students all the resources of the engineering departments would have to be thrown into it. It couldn't be done half-way. Students would have to be made enthusiastic over the plan, they would have to want to sacrifice their social life. They would have to become semi-robots.

But isn't it better that men become in part robots in this nation now bracing itself against an iron curtain; that they work more efficiently at an earlier age; that they do all they can—rather than not be part-robots and know that a day of decision will come to them a day sooner?

Other colleges and universities, to name two, Drexel Institute and Antioch College, are offering a cooperative education program—a program that could be handled any number of ways. It is working with them and can work better.

Is it not better that the Pennsylvania State University gradually adopt this program, with its eyes open, and look to the future?

After all, quality and quantity are better than just quantity.

—Ted Serrill

Plight of the Grass

Along with Bermuda shorts, baseball, and rainy weather, another sure sign of Spring is the appearance on campus of humorous signs placed by Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, politely asking students to keep off the grass and "give the gay young blades" a chance to grow.

It seems that no matter how many miles of macadam paths are laid on campus, and how convenient they are to use, students and faculty members repeatedly find a more convenient path across short stretches of green grass, reducing it in no time at all to a mire of mud.

There are two solutions to the problem. The University can survey the situation, and if it finds a new access is needed, install another path.

The alternate, and simplest solution is for students to stay off the grass and use existing walks.

There is certainly nothing wrong with walking on the campus grass if the walking is done by an individual or two, and not in a mass movement. But there is no excuse for a concerted pilgrimage across one spot until the grass wears out.

There is a big difference between enjoying and destroying the campus. The few remaining grassy areas on campus are gradually giving way to University construction as well as student destruction. A little thoughtfulness on the part of students and faculty must be exercised if our campus is to remain green.

—The Editor

Safety Valve

Measles vs. Grange Coeds

TO THE EDITOR: Why is Grange Dormitory an isolation ward? Since the measles cases have been housed there, no fewer than five girls have come down with them. The door to the men's isolation ward is right next to our mail boxes and the girls with measles are housed on the first floor near the housemother's office where we have to sign in and out.

—Phoebe English

Gazette

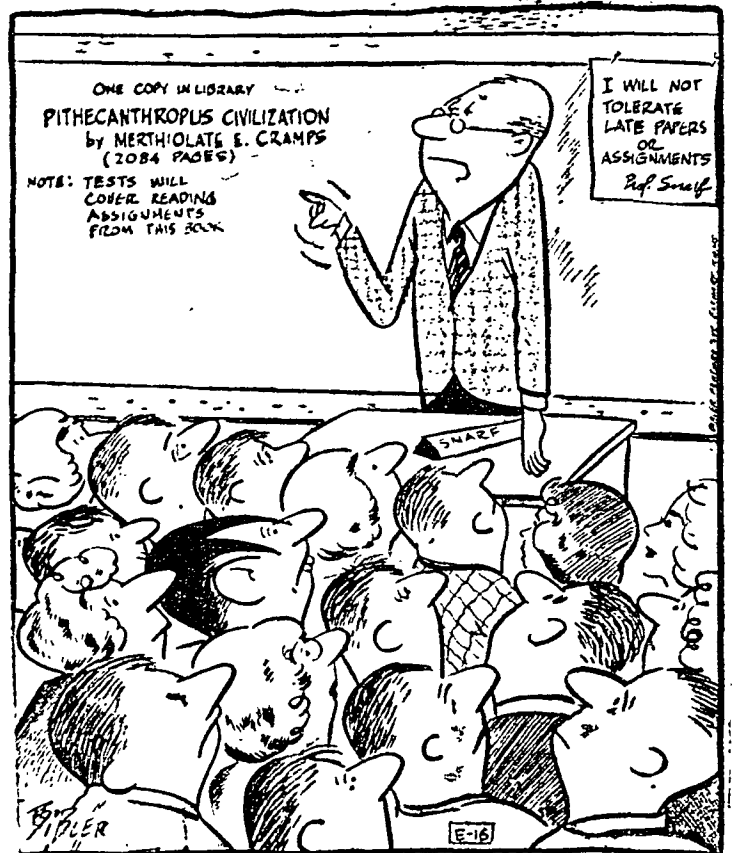
Today
AIM BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 7 p.m., 203 Hetzel Union
CHESS CLUB, 7 to 10 p.m., 7 Sparks
HILLEL, Film, "The Quiet One," 4 and 6 p.m., Hillel
Foundation
MAYPOLE DANCERS, 12:30 p.m., White Hall
NEWMAN CLUB, Choir Rehearsal, 7:30, Catholic Church
PLAYERS, Advertising Workshop, 7 p.m., Schwab
RIDING CLUB, 7 p.m., 217 Willard

Tomorrow
AMERICAN ROCKET SOCIETY, 7 p.m., 106 Mech. Eng.
University Hospital

Richard Bouchet, Arthur Cohen, David Friedenberg, Lewis Gold, Beth Evans, George Goldstein, Carole Griffiths, Lenore Hamilton, John Kerns, Charlotte Klippel, Herman Koenig, Philip Litow, Ann McKnight, Sera Mortensen, Ruth Nissen, Harvey Nixon, Robert Rosen, Jerome Sumner, Daniel Valenty, Hugh Wagner, Walter Wysockanski, and Karl Yodanis.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"And you won't have to be responsible for chapter 51 on the final."

dubbs-za-poppin'

R-and-B, R-and-R: Just Out of It

After giving the subject much thought, we have decided that rhythm-and-blues and rock-and-roll are out of it.

And do we mean out of it.

Before we go any further we would like to consider r-and-b and r-and-r under one title, "stuff."

For the life of us, we can't see how anyone could enjoy this "stuff". The lyrics and words are nothing more than hillbilly tear-jerking works. The only answer seems to be the beat, that beat that makes all too many people want to tap their feet.

But if beat is what they want, why won't progressive jazz, mambo, or dixieland do?

This "stuff" apparently gained its popularity in the high schools and worked its way up to college. This is unlike Bermuda shorts, white bucks, saddles, and the other fads that started with the college crowd and worked down to high school students.

A listen to the Hetzel Union jukebox will show that this "stuff" is popular at Penn State.

And Steve Fishbein, WMAJ's nighttime professor who doubles as a student during the daytime, conducted a survey which proved his listeners wanted the "stuff". Steve, who personally prefers jazz and ballad-type music to the "stuff," is spinning it as a result of the survey.

The more we think about it, "stuff" isn't a very good word to use. From here on in we will call it "junk."

What puzzles us is why Gale Storm has to start recording this "junk." She is by far a better comedian than a singer, if you can call her that.

We cannot blame anyone for not letting her come in. She could have knocked and yelled till doomsday and we wouldn't have left her in.

And "The Great Pretender" gets our vote for one of the worst songs ever recorded. The only thing that guy was pretending was that he could sing.

Maybe we've been a little too harsh on "The Great Pretender." For it really isn't a half bad song. We heard Eddie Fisher, whom we have not particular love for, do it on his TV program between semesters. He sang the song as a

ballad, giving the impression of a sad clown, who makes the world laugh but not himself, when he wasn't before the footlights.

When the song is viewed from this angle, it isn't half bad.

Even the hillbillies don't like this "junk," and that is getting pretty bad.

Says Si Siman, producer of "Ozark Jubilee," according to International News Service:

"Rock-and-roll is part of country music today, but not by our election. We rode (we thought he was a hillbilly, not a cowboy) against it until the demand became too strong, then we included it with reservations (now he's an Indian?)."

The top two records today—"Blue Suede Shoes" and "Heartbreak Hotel"—are "junk."

And what is worst about this "junk" is that it's apparently here to stay.

Oh well. Pass us a Sinatra record, and, Mom, dig in the closet and flip us our blue suedes. Yah, man!

Western Electric Donates Awards

Western Electric Company Scholarships have been established to aid worthy and needy engineering students in any class.

The awards, covering the costs of fees and books, will be made in payments at the beginning of each semester.

President Milton S. Eisenhower will make the final selection in considering need and ability of students for the awards.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

6:45	Sign On
6:50	News, Sports
7:00	Your Telephone Bandstand
7:45	News of The Nation, State-wise, and Sports Scenes
8:00	Marquee Memories
8:30	Open to Question
9:00	Music of The People
9:30	BBC Weekly
9:45	The Day's News, Sports, and Weather In Review
10:00	Virtuose
11:00	Sign Off