

Published Monday through Saturday mornings during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper.

# The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE est. 1887

\$3.00 per semester \$5.00 per year

Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

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## Student Spirit Needs a Boost

The only evidence of real student spirit we have seen during the past year or two was the mass demonstration on the mall after the football game with Ohio State and the many letters and opinions given in regard to the Christmas vacation.

We might add to the list a mention of Clyde Klutz and C. V. Tummer who have caused a great deal of stir and talk on various subjects.

Actually, there has been a general apathy on the part of the student body throughout most of the year. Students show little interest in student government, who it is composed of, or what it does. Even football games and other sports events often lack student support in the desired quantity.

What is at the bottom of the general apathy which seems to pervade the campus? No one, as yet, has been able to successfully answer this question. We would like to suggest a few causes which might possibly lie at the bottom of the apathy toward student government and the student activity system.

First of all we would say that many of the legislative bodies have little feeling for the average student which they govern. Most of the legislation does not affect the student at all, the great bulk of it only indirectly, and some of it affects him adversely. Much of the legislation is concerned with perpetuating the whole organization and another large part with changing the structure of the group. This has almost zero effect on most students and gains about an equal rise in enthusiasm from him.

When the students on the councils or other groups spend money they are often thinking more in terms of themselves and their own interests than they are of the average students.

Most of the active students on campus are not in real need of money. They do not have to work their way through college or they would not have the time for activities. Therefore they do not always consider the feelings of the student who is working hard and wants only his education. From this student's standpoint some of his dollar is wasted on non-academic items.

We realize that this can also go to the other

extreme where no funds are spent for social or extra curricular activities, but we think a balance should be reached.

Generally speaking the activity sphere of student life is the focal point of legislation and student government time. This leaves the great bulk of the student body uninterested.

Another possible fault of student government and activity groups which causes other students to lack interest is the veil of secrecy which encloses so many activities. Many times students know only the bare facts and none of the background information. Other times they are denied even the facts. Many political maneuvers are understood only by those on the "inside." This does not tend to increase student interest.

Some students have the opinion that student government is only a social club, and one student even went so far as to say that All-University Cabinet meets in the Tavern. Whether true or not statements like this tend to undermine the influence of student government. It is up to student leaders to act like it both when on the job and when in social situations.

Many of the student leaders are unknown to the student body. This would seem to a large extent unavoidable, but features and more personality publicity might help to develop student government interest.

Perhaps one of the most influential factors in souring the average student on the activity system is the method of appointments. Whether it be committee, hat society or political party nomination, most students find that the deciding factor is who you know and whether or not your fraternity brother or sorority sister is in the group. This gives many students the feeling that they are defeated before they begin.

Some of these faults are not easily changed; others are more easily altered. Some of these defects are characteristic of our society and are not peculiar to the University. We hope that an honest method toward improvement will be made by the new student government leaders. We feel that appointments and legislation could be improved without too much difficulty.

Sue Conklin

## Little Man on Campus by Bibler



"That's just a ten minute quiz. You should see him when he's giving a bluebook."

## According to Moyle

by mike moyle

### Fire, Fire!

Usually, the newspaper routine is a dull one; a hard grind which provides few glamorous moments.

However, there are times when a newspaper man can almost fit the picture which is painted of the dashing reporter running off to cover a bank robbery, or cracking a city-wide gambling syndicate wide open.

Fire stories often provide newspapermen with some of their most exciting moments. The Daily Collegian has had its big ones (sic, the W.O. Houts blaze and last year's Delta Sigma Phi fire which prompted a special Sunday edition.)

Last night was another of those rare nights. Until about 9 p.m. the nightly routine was proceeding as usual. A few reporters were still working on late stories. The issue staff was beginning to wrap up the last remnants of the night's copy.

It was then that a phone tip came in: Nittany 32 was on fire!

The result was immediate bedlam. Reporters grabbed for raincoats and copy paper. A dormitory burning down was worth a long hike through the rain. In the dark room, photographers were fumbling around in an effort to load enough for what might be some of the year's best pictures. Just think of the dorm's

residents trying to save what they could of their possessions! Great human interest.

In the midst of the whole busy scene there came another phone call—from the same "informant" who had called earlier. He said, in a small voice, "Fire's out now—April Fool."

So as we settle back into the same old routine, rain coats back on the hangers, photographers calmed down, we hope that the residents of Nittany 32 spend a safe, sane, dry night.

### Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
6:50	Sign On
6:55	News
7:00	Simmons Lecture Series
7:55	Sports
8:00	Face To Face
8:30	Sounds In The Night
9:00	News
9:15	Review of the European Press
9:30	Marquee Memories
10:00	This World of Music
11:30	News
11:35	Sign Off

Today  
AIM Judicial Board Review, 7 p.m., 217 HUB  
ANGEL FLIGHT Drill Practice, 7:30 p.m., Armory. Compulsory for entire flight; demerits will be issued for absence.  
ARNOLD AIR SOCIETY Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Delta Tau Delta.  
COLLEGIAN PROMOTION STAFF, 6:45 p.m., 103 Willard  
FRESHMAN REGULATIONS BOARD, Old and new members, 12:30 p.m., WSGA room, HUB  
GAMMA SIGMA, 6:30 p.m., 2 White Hall  
NEU BAVARIAN SCHUHPLATTLERS, 7 p.m., Westminster

Hall  
SPRING WEEK Publicity Meeting, 7 p.m., 9 Carnegie  
UCA FIRESIDE Meeting, McElwain and Simmons unit, 6:30 p.m., McElwain Lounge  
WSGA Judicial Board Meeting, 5 p.m., WSGA office, HUB University Hospital  
Bette Bingman, Frederick Condon, Sara Cushman, Sherod Daugherty, Donald Daum, George Emery, Jane Groff, Janice Hochberg, Pauline Hoffman, Patricia Kelly, Margaret King, John Lewis, Stanley Lindenberg, Samuel Markle, Juri Niller, Richard Poole, George Sellers, Valerie Sigelen, Marilyn Smith, Ira Starer, John C. Williams, Sally Williams.

### Caps, Gowns Available To Agriculture Seniors

Seniors enrolled in the College of Agriculture may order caps and gowns today and tomorrow only at the Athletic Store.

Students must leave a \$5 deposit when ordering and give their hat sizes. Invitations and announcements may be purchased for 10 cents each at the Hetzel Union desk.

### ICG Will Meet Tonight

The University chapter of the Intercollegiate Conference on Government will meet at 7 tonight in 204 Willard.

### Visiting Instructor To Give Readings

Janette Burns, instructor of literature at the Altoona Center, will give a series of readings from Stephen Vincent Benet's book of poetry "John Brown's Body," at 7:30 tonight in the northeast lounge of Atherton.

The lecture is being presented by the Belles Lettres Club and Sigma Tau Delta, English literature honorary fraternity.

The meeting is open to the public.

### Panhel Council Banquet To Be Held Tonight

The Panhellenic Council banquet is scheduled for 6:30 tonight in dining room A of the Hetzel Union Building.

Two representatives from each sorority and the old and new Panhellenic officers are to attend. Sorority representatives should be regular Panhellenic Council delegates.

### Education Council to Meet

The Education Student Council will meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow to complete plans for the Open House Friday.

## Gazette

### Simon's SNEAKERS

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