

53 Years of Editorial Freedom

The Daily Collegian

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The Student Body Gets a 'Prexy'

The student body last night conferred its foremost emblem of esteem, the title of "Prexy," on Dr. Eric Arthur Walker.

He was caught by surprise at his campus home. The impressive ceremony was short and simple, and if we know him at all, he would have had it no other way.

He was deeply appreciative of the honor, as any student who attended the ceremony easily could see. There can be no doubt that he will cherish the title.

For one of the few times, the President was caught almost speechless. About all he could manage was: "Penn State students are the best in the world." But he needed to say no more to express his feelings.

Let's take a look at the new President, the man the Board of Trustees has chosen to lead the University in the future, a future plagued with as many, if not more, problems than the founders of the Farmers High School had to face more than 100 years ago. Let's take a look at the man the student body has seen fit to hold the title of "Prexy."

We can list his education: Wrightsville, Pa., high school, 1928, bachelor of science degree from Harvard University, 1932; master's degree in business administration from Harvard, 1933; doctorate in engineering from Harvard, 1935. Honorary doctor of laws degree, Temple University, 1957; Lehigh University, 1957.

We can list his experience: Tufts College, 1933-39; University of Connecticut, 1940-42; Harvard Underwater Sound Laboratory, 1942-45; Head, Department of Electrical Engineering and Director, Ordnance Research Laboratory, Penn State, 1945-51; Dean, College of Engineering

and Architecture, Penn State, 1951-56; Vice President, Penn State, 1956; President, Penn State, since Oct. 1, 1956.

This tells us something about the man, but certainly not all.

He has been called "the Brainstorming President," "a whirlwind of energy," and "a man with a vast fund of experience and the willingness to work like a horse." He's all of that.

"There aren't many men of his 47 years who can point to having earned their own living and carved out their own place in society for 37 years, as he has done," as one newspaper has pointed out.

And we can point out that he worked his way through Harvard for seven years.

And we can say: He was largely responsible for bringing the Ordnance Research Laboratory to the University, building the nuclear reactor, developing an instrument to be used by surgeons in locating gallstones in the bile duct, and designing the first series of underwater weapons credited with an important part in winning World War II.

All of these things tell us something about our new President and our new "Prexy."

But most important, he's a man who wants to make Penn State into a great university. He's a man who will work tirelessly toward this goal, keeping in mind at all times the best interests of the student body, the faculty, the alumni, the friends, the Commonwealth.

This, then, is the man who will officially become the University's 12th President today. This, then, is the man who is already "Prexy."

—The Editor

Rotation System: Pampering the Indies?

An investigation of the fraternity-independent rotation system contained in the Elections Code will be among the recommendations from Student Encampment scheduled to go before All-University Cabinet tonight.

The rotation system does deserve consideration—consideration of throwing it out the window.

The reason for its existence is to hold down the potential power block of fraternities and give the independents a fighting chance. This is its reason and also its number one fault.

Independents, time after time, are being protected from the "bully" fraternities. They are taken by the hand, coaxed, pushed and given an office or two every other year to keep everyone happy.

Independents can take care of themselves. That's why they choose to remain independents.

If they feel that they are being oppressed, they can easily make themselves known. On this campus there are 9000 Indies and only 4000 fraternity men and women.

The rotation system is not painting a realistic picture of politics in any form. It would be ridiculous to imagine a rotation system on the national level where a Republican were allowed one term and the next one automatically went to a Democrat.

A free-for-all election would strengthen student leaders and minimize apathy.

It would strengthen the leadership because, and this has happened, in an independent's year for All-University president, there may be several good fraternity men for the position but no outstanding independents. What happens? The independent wins, since it's his turn, and the

student body suffers through a year of weak leadership.

If the rotation system were thrown out, we bet that the percentage of voting in an election would be higher than last year's 27 per cent. A voting percentage is not always a valid means of measuring apathy, but it is a good indication.

Perhaps more interest would be aroused over the election if it were not so mechanical. The Greeks would have to pull and the Indies would have to pull if they wanted to win.

The extreme result of this, of course, would be an open contest between the fraternities and independents. This, however, would rarely happen in full force since students often vote in a way to keep a certain candidate from winning the office. This is an unpleasant thought but it is true.

If it would result in Greeks versus Indies, the fraternities might run away with the vote in the first few elections since they are already organized. But when the independents realize they are being tread upon, they could rally together and defeat the Greeks in any contest!

The University is one of few schools, if any, that uses the rotation system. Most schools have no regulations whatsoever about the affiliation of the officers.

There is no logical reason for pampering the independents. Just because over 7000 men and 2000 women on this campus claim no Greek affiliation, this doesn't mean they compose the minority group.

Cabinet should look at this problem realistically tonight. Does the present means justify the end—not only for University living but for the preparation of solid American citizens?

—Judy Harkison

Gazette

Today
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION, 7 p.m., 212 Chapel
HILLEL ZIONIST COMMITTEE, 7 p.m., Hillel Foundation
HILLEL SOCIAL COMMITTEE, 7 p.m., Hillel Foundation
INSURANCE CLUB, 7 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
PENN STATE YOUNG DEMOCRATS, 7 p.m., 209 HUB
PHI SIGMA IOTA, 7 p.m., McElwain Lounge
WDFM CONTINUITY STAFF, 7 p.m., 309 Sparks
WRA BRIDGE CLUB, 7 p.m., 109 White Bldg.
WRA HOCKEY CLUB, 4 p.m., Holmes Field

WRA OFFICIALS CLUB, 6:30 p.m., White Bldg.
WRA SWIM CLUB TRYOUTS, 6:30 p.m., White Bldg. pool
WRA SWIM CLUB, 7 p.m., White Bldg.
WRA TENNIS CLUB, 7 p.m., 2 White Bldg.
TONIGHT ON WDFM
6:45 Sign on and News; 7:00 Contemporary Concepts;
7:59 State News and National Sports; 8:00 Guest D-J;
8:30 Showcase; 9:00 News, Local, National and World;
9:15 Special Events; 10:00 News; 10:05 Chamber Concert;
11:30 News and Sign-off.

Foundation Gives ME Scholarship

A \$750 scholarship to aid an entering freshman in the mechanical engineering curriculum has been established by the Carrier Foundation, Inc.

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic record, character, interest in the mechanical engineering field and financial need.

If the student chosen continues to meet requirements, the scholarship can be renewed for each of the three years as an undergraduate.

Research Lab Members Attend Radio Conference

Three staff members of the Ionosphere Research Laboratory attended the recent 12th International Assembly of the International Scientific Radio Union.

They are Dr. Arthur H. Waynick, Dr. Erwin R. Schmerling and Dr. Sidney A. Bowhill.

TIM Council Elections

Elections for Town Independent Men's Council will continue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the entrance to the Hetzel Union cardroom.

EE Prof Invited To Present Paper

Harold I. Tarpley, professor of electrical engineering and director of computer facilities, has been invited to present a paper at Information Days, a conference sponsored by the French government.

The conference, which will be held Oct. 14 to 18 in Paris, will be attended by representatives of European management and some students from French universities. The subject of Professor Tarpley's paper will be "Use of Electronic Computers and the Trend in the Training of Engineers in the United States."

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bible



"Oh, for heaven's sake, Fenslasky—not ANOTHER note from that English teacher."

Troubled Times Are Nothing New

By ARTHUR EDSON

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Oct. 2 (AP)—Newspaper men are strange creatures. Once they have a breather, or get off work, or take a vacation, what do they usually do?

Ever eager for the latest developments from Little Rock to the White House to Moscow to the World Series, they grab a newspaper.

But today, during National Newspaper Week, let's turn to something historians learned long ago, that for understanding the past, there's nothing like reading old newspapers.

And that's why at least one newspaper man each night eagerly turns to the "News of Olden Days" column in the Alexandria Gazette. There are recorded the events and the thinking of 100 years ago. Since 1857, like 1957, was an exciting but troubling period, it's interesting and instructive to read the news with its pronounced southern accent.

James Buchanan was in the White House, and the war clouds were gathering, although no one seems to have noticed them yet.

The Dred Scott decision had been handed down by the Supreme Court, saying that slavery could spread to the territories. The North was dismayed, while the Gazette probably spoke for most of the South when it said:

"The agitators of the slavery question in the North, have now, in addition to the other obstructions thrown in their way, the solemn decision of the Supreme Court, to contend against."

"They may harass the executive and annoy the legislative de-

partment of the government but they cannot shake the purposes, nor annul the decrees, of the supreme judicial tribunal."

It's interesting to know that in all the turmoil Congress acted pretty much as it always does, and newspapers reacted to Congress pretty much as they always do.

The Gazette quotes the Richmond Dispatch as saying: "Mr. Sumner, in a late speech in the Senate, likened Mr. Douglas, of Illinois, to a certain nameless animal emitted odor. The U.S. Senate was once as dignified and decorous a body as the British House of Lords. . . ."

"What a descent," the Dispatch said, "to the dubious epithet, 'you skunk!'"

Weisbord Given Post In Journalism School

Marvin R. Weisbord of Philadelphia has been named instructor in the School of Journalism. He is in charge of a photography course and two introductory journalism laboratories.

Weisbord received a bachelor of science degree at the University of Illinois and a master of arts from the State University of Iowa. He has done free lance writing and photography for popular, trade and Sunday supplement magazines.

