

Editorial Opinion

Just an Empty Degree?

"Those rumors that final examinations were out and floating about fraternities are believed to be mainly just that—rumors," we reported yesterday.

We are not sure, however, that we buy this.

Finals do get out. There are many ways, and the most common of these is probably through carelessness in throwing away stencils and the first mimeographed copies.

Some, in the past, have been sold by persons who had access to them.

There is no doubt that the rumors were greatly exaggerated. However, the rumors were so prevalent that we cannot just pass them off as rumors, respite the fact, as we reported, that no University official or faculty member is known to be able to prove any examinations were out.

When we interviewed professors about their examinations possibly being out, some told us they had many complaints from students. But most of the students apparently couldn't—or wouldn't—name names, although some gave the impression of knowing names.

One of the best ways to prevent similar situations—in addition to the professors and departments taking utmost security precautions—is for the good students to come forward and name names.

Good students should not take the attitude that the cheating student is hurting just himself, for this is often not true, especially in courses where the final examination is curved. And besides, the students have an obligation to see that Penn State does not obtain a reputation for cheating.

Whether or not the finals were out, the whole thing may well have an adverse effect on attempts by students to obtain more responsibility through honor codes and the like.

And many of the rumors involved fraternities. These certainly did not help the fraternity system. The Interfraternity Council should try to get to the bottom of the rumors.

The rumors certainly did not aid the University's prestige either. In fact, we wondered for awhile whether Penn State students were trying to get an education or just an empty degree.

Without Fanfare

Yesterday the University quietly opened its doors to 500 new students. These students entered under a handicap—they did not receive the fanfare of customs, orientation program, or hat societies serenade that is traditional with the incoming fall students.

Although their arrival was inauspicious, and not officially heralded, this group is as much a part of the University student body as is the fall contingent.

In this day of increasing enrollment, these students were fortunate in being admitted to an institution such as Penn State. It is now up to them to make their school as proud of them as they can be of Penn State.

Editorials are written by the editors and staff members of The Daily Collegian and do not necessarily represent the views of the University or of the student body.

A Student-Operated Newspaper

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

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ED DUBBS, Editor STEVE HIGGINS, Bus. Mgr. Managing Editor, Judy Harrison; City Editor, Robert Franklin; Sports Editor, Vince Carocci; Copy Editor, Marian Beatty; Assistant Copy Editor, Ralph Blanna; Assistant Sports Editor, Matt Matthews and Lou Prato; Make-up Editor, Ginny Phillips; Photography Editor, George Harrison.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night Editor, Dick Drayne; Copy Editor, Bonnie Jones; Wire Editor, Dick Fisher. Assistants: Neal Friedman, Loretta Aynardi, Mary Fran Cowley and Amy Rosenthal.

Other Opinion

Deterioration Of Teachers

Dr. James R. Killian Jr., making his first speech since taking office as Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, said:

"At this point in the evolution of our schools the highest priorities should be given to better provision for our intellectually gifted young people. We should lay greater stress on the more rigorous teaching of intellectual skills and on higher standards of excellence for both teachers and pupils."

Actually, a good deal would be accomplished if it proved possible merely to halt the decline in quality now occurring in the standards of preparation of college teachers.

The National Education Association has recently issued some startling documentation, the result of a study of the individuals who went into university teaching during the academic years 1953-54 and 1956-57.

We are told that in that four-year interval, the per cent of newly-employed full-time teachers who had earned a Ph.D. degree dropped from 31.4 to 23.5. And at the same time, the per cent hired even though they had not done enough postgraduate work to get an M.A. rose from 18.2 to 23.1.

Even with these low—and falling—standards, half of the 761 institutions studied had unfilled teaching positions—1196 of them—during the two year 1955-57. The majority of these were in the areas where the training of additional students is very pressing: 226 were in engineering, 225 in the physical sciences, 148 in mathematics.

This inability to hire trained teachers is due in part to the lack of numbers at a time of rapidly raising requirements, even though the total of advanced degrees awarded has gone up each year since 1954, with 59,300 M.A.'s and 8820 Ph.D.'s in 1956. But in a larger part, the difficulty is due to the competitive attraction of non-academic occupations for such educated manpower as is available.

The speed with which an annual deterioration in the quality of new hiring permeates a faculty is shown by the fact that while in 1953-54 only just one in ten of the full-time teaching staff of colleges and universities had not reached M.A. status, by 1956-57, almost one in four was thus meagerly equipped.

—The New Republic

Two Billion Men With Anger Needed

What the world needs are two billion angry men who will make it clear to their national leaders that the earth does not exist for the purpose of being a stage for the total destruction of man.

Two billion angry men can insist that the world's resources be utilized for human good. They can demand that the nations stop using the sky as an open sewer for radioactive poisons, and that an end be put to uncontrolled devices that pursue future generations by way of damaged genes.

They can also compel the nations to end the long age of the cave and begin a real civilization. A war is now being waged against the world's peoples and they have the need and duty to defend themselves.

—The Saturday Review

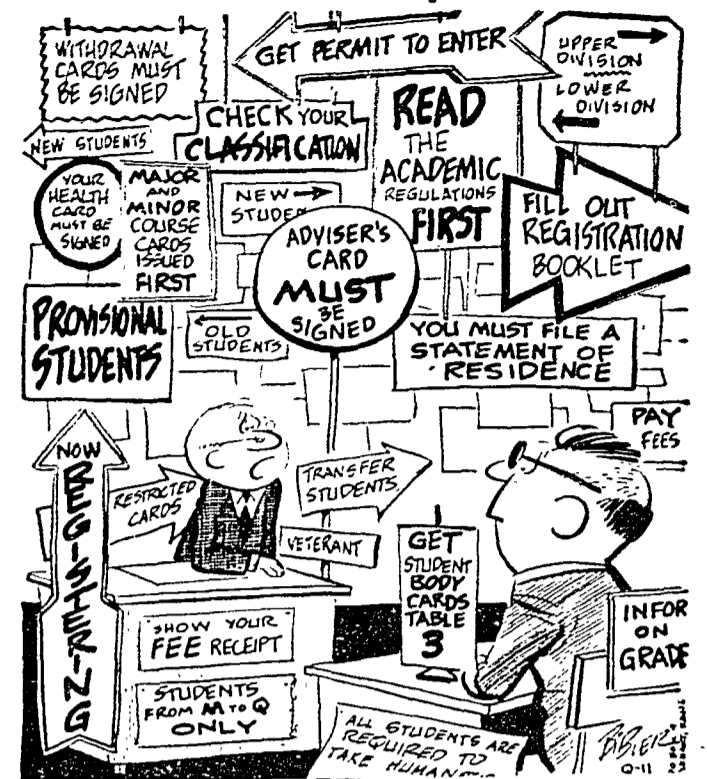
Gazette

TODAY Collegian Ad Staff, 202 Willard, 6:45 p.m. Collegian Business Staff, 9 Carnegie, 7:30 Economics Seminar, noon, HUB Dining Room. Home Ec Club, 7 p.m., Living Center Hillel Choir, 7 p.m., 214 Carnegie IUG, 7:30 p.m., 204 Willard Newman Club Religious committee, 7 p.m., 210 Program Center Panhellenic Council, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB WSGA Judicial, 5 p.m., 217 HUB

Hillel Choir to Rehearse

The Hillel Foundation Choir will rehearse at 7 tonight in 214 Carnegie. New members may attend.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Don't think we'll have many students this year—not many intelligent enough to get through registration."

Looking Ahead

Campus May See Major Changes

By Bob Franklin

The second semester—and the second month of 1958—open with a number of major changes on the horizon at both the administration and student level.

To predict the news and views of University Park during the next year would be quite impossible, but we believe a number of basic trends are distinguishable.

So we'll venture out on the limb to suggest a few events which we expect within the next year:

- The administration, looking for more space for classes, will take steps to hold more television and noon and 5 p.m. classes; curtail the expansion of offices into classroom space, such as happened this year in Willard Hall, consider holding more classes at night; and decide to replace the antiquated Armory with a classroom building sometime after the Kennedy military science building is opened.

- The administration will make more immediate independent decisions on student matters, passing fewer of these on to the Board of Trustees. This trend was partly evidenced by the decision not to ask trustee approval of the student insurance program.

- This spring's student political campaign will be one of the most vigorous in recent years. It will be followed by a major reorganization in student government designed to give students more direct representation.

- The All-University Elec-

tions Committee will loosen its grip on political parties somewhat in the fall and allow them and the students to assume more responsibility for their actions. There will be two parties campaigning in the fall elections.

- Another major shakeup will take place within the administration. At least one dean will resign or be retired by September.

- A number of student government organizations may well adopt a directed-vote plan to influence their representatives on All-University Cabinet. Some also will use committees more extensively, particularly for exhaustive study of student problems.

- Compulsory ROTC will replace NSA as a perennial student issue. The next All-University Cabinet will ask abolition of compulsory ROTC, as will the student governments of a number of other colleges.

- Neither an AM station nor a student bookstore will become a reality before this time next year, but students will make substantial progress toward obtaining them.

- Parking, both on campus and downtown, will become an increasingly difficult problem. The borough parking authority may well run into trouble in its plans to set up its own lots downtown, and bans on daytime parking may be increased.

