

Editorial Opinion

No Class Cuts?

The problem of class cuts and compulsory attendance, long a controversial issue among students and faculty members, is now under study by a subcommittee of the University Senate.

Lawrence E. Dennis, chairman of the administrative procedures committee, appointed the committee last week to "review the problem with an eye to reaffirming the present system or recommending a new policy."

Dennis said it usually takes about a month for such a committee to make its report.

It is encouraging to see that the importance of the class cut problem has been recognized by the University, and that something is to be done about it. The committee should study the question well and see that it does not become lost in an administrative run-around—for the case for the elimination of penalties for class cuts is a strong one.

A recommendation from the 1957 Student Encampment stated the case well: "Through missing classes, the student misses essential information, and thus penalizes himself."

The Encampment recommended that "no artificial penalties should be imposed on sophomores, juniors and seniors for unexcused absences from classes."

Compelling a student to go to class is neither necessary nor sensible. The University has no obligation to make a student learn—it has only to see that the information is presented well, and there will be no worries about students absorbing it.

Penalizing for class cuts is often used as a device by a professor who cannot otherwise draw students to class. But this is actually penalizing students for the deficiencies of the professor, a system which is hardly logical or defensible.

There is perhaps reason for compulsory attendance for freshmen, as many freshmen might let their newfound freedom wreck their academic careers.

But after a student has had a year to acclimate himself to the University and its academic demands, he should be able to decide for himself whether or not a class is worthwhile.

A system of unlimited class cuts for upperclassmen should be seriously considered by the Senate—for a voluntary attendance system would both increase the responsibility of the individual student and raise the standards of the University.

Are You Uncovered?

Are you uncovered? We don't mean to pry into your private affairs, but we think you should make sure you have proper protection—insurance protection.

Today is your last chance to make application for a policy under the student insurance program. And if you are "uncovered" you are taking a chance you can ill afford—a chance on your health, both physical and financial.

For the student insurance program is one of the biggest bargains available—the costs of its plans are considerably more reasonable than non-student-operated programs.

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

Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Price: \$3.00 per semester - \$5.00 per year.

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Letters

Student Plans Protest Fast

TO THE EDITOR: (Today) I shall begin a 3-day fast in sympathy for those suffering in the present racial strife in Little Rock, in Virginia, in England, in South Africa, and in State College (e.g. housing and beauty parlors).

May I urge those involved to search their souls, to beg God guidance, and to accept his command. And may I ask those not involved to write or talk to someone who is.

I shall repeat this fast every month for a year. If prejudice still exists at the end of that time, may the good Lord bless the deeds it has caused and will cause.

—Michael Rosenbloom

Customs Board Writes Thanks

TO THE EDITOR: The Freshman Customs Board wishes to express its gratitude to the staff of The Daily Collegian for its support of Freshman Customs.

We feel your coverage and interest greatly aided the spirit which prevailed throughout the Customs period this year.

Your assistance to the Customs program is evidence of your successful work "For a Better Penn State."

—Helen Skado, John Nagy, Jane Kleinfeld, George Bentrem, Louise Bederka, Jean Pipal, Richard Feldman, Lewis H. Brown, Donald Clagett, Jane Sinclair, Nancy Navikas, Richard Haber, Sandra Sligh.

Gazette

TODAY

- AIM, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
Chess Club, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks
Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
Civil Air Patrol, 8 p.m., 208 Willard
Episcopal Holy Communion, 7 a.m., Hibbs
IFPCPA, Junior and Senior Boarders, 7:30 p.m., Delta Chi
Mineral Industries Student Council, 8:15 p.m., 216 HUB
Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, 7:30 p.m., 120 State College Junior High School
Pennsylvania School Study Council, 9 a.m., HUB Assembly Hall; 3 p.m., 214-216 HUB
Penn State Grange, 7 p.m., 204 Weaver
Pershing Rifles, 7 p.m., Armory
State Future Farmers of America Conference, 1 p.m., 217 HUB; 7 p.m., 214 HUB
UCA, 7:30 p.m., 216 HUB
UCA Social Commission, 7:45 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel Library
Women's Chorus, 7 p.m., HUB Assembly Room
Young Republicans, 7 p.m., 202 Willard

Enrollment Ends For Ugly Man

Registration for the Ugly Man Contest will end at 5 p.m. today. Application blanks and contest rules are available at the Hetzel Union desk.

Alpha Phi Omega, men's national service fraternity, sponsors the contest annually.

Both fraternity men and independent men are eligible. Attempts will be made by Alpha Phi Omega to supply automobiles for freshman units.

Contest finals will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 in the Hetzel Union ballroom.

Individual campaigns may start at any time. Campaigning is confined to the Mall between the hours of noon and 1 p.m.

Walker, Dennis to Talk On Classroom Television

President Eric A. Walker and Lawrence E. Dennis, vice president for academic affairs, will discuss the use of television in teaching at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education on Oct. 9-10 in Chicago, Ill.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibles



'Today's demonstration will be on 'How to Set a Broken Arm.'''

Behind the News

Video Lecturers Rival Bob and Ray

By Bob Franklin

By this time, most freshmen have been exposed to an educational method they never encountered in high school—the television course (known to the Romans as lectorum eyestranum).

Although of ancient origin (the Russians, I think, claim to have invented TV in B.C.), television transmission of courses has become popular only recently.

Popular with the profs, that is. Some students, used to the professional shows emanating from Hollywood and New York, tend to sneer at what they call "Penn State's amateur hour."

They liken the video courses to commercial television before commercials were filmed, when we saw such bloopers as the cigarette peddler who broke into a fit of coughing and excused himself with: "Pardon me, I guess I've been smoking too much."

Students have watched professors play around with the answering system panel, trying to figure out which lights belong to which rooms; display a list of answers before giving quiz questions, and frantically beckon cameramen to focus on exhibits.

One professor, to illustrate his lecture vividly, rushed on and off camera in different costumes. Another "show" ev-

en uses two profs—it's been likened to a deadpan version of Bob and Ray.

Despite their more ludicrous aspects, television courses do have some definite advantages: they can bring lectures by better profs to more students; they probably save the University a tidy sum in professors' salaries; they enable students to get a close look at experiments which they could never see in large lecture halls.

In one of these experiments last year, two mice were subjected to electrical shock treatment. One, untrained, was supposed to do nothing. It did.

But the trained mouse, who was supposed to dive into a nearby hole, instead leaped out of the experiment area, causing a scrambling of professors, a tangle of TV cables and a general uproar all over the ground floor of Sparks Building.

A Saturday Evening Post article by Corey Ford has called television a matter of "giveaway, thataway and Garroway." Considering the University scene—many of the TV students who are not sleeping are cutting—we'll add "getaway."

One student gets so lonely in a TV course that he invites his friends in for class!

