

Editorial Opinion

Past Lessons Can Teach Students of the Future

From the moment they stepped off railroad trains in Spruce Creek or Lewistown, higher education was a demanding task for the 69 students who on Feb. 17, 1859, began the educational program of the Farmer's High School.

They jounced over rough roads in springless wagons; they were forced to live in one half-completed building; they were required to perform three hours of farm labor every weekday, often in unfavorable weather; they lived without social life under a multitude of restrictions which dictated their smallest daily habits.

A century later, the more than 15,000 undergraduate students at the main campus of the Pennsylvania State University are accustomed to almost every comfort readily available to modern man.

Students now can study any of 60 curriculums taught in nine colleges using the facilities of more than 150 buildings and a plant valued at approximately \$95 million.

But the tremendous changes which dedicated individuals have wrought in the University over the last century only serve to emphasize the almost unbelievable advances it can make in the next few years.

For the University will come close to doubling its scope in less than a quarter of the time it took to accumulate its existing facilities.

The lessons learned by students over the past century can instruct future student bodies in the ways of progress.

Opportunities for a liberal education, students' relations with others and the Penn State spirit are the three areas which should be of most interest to University student bodies in the future. These are the areas which have become the most lacking over the last century and so offer the most opportunity for advancement.

The University has developed a myriad of opportunities for more liberal education ever since it was chartered "to promote liberal and practical education in the several pursuits and professions of life."

The student body, using its own student government as an instrument, has been influential in this development. It must continue to exert its influence to insure that the University bypasses no opportunity to enrich in knowledge and culture the minds of its students; that the University does not succumb to the universal temptation to mass-produce educationally narrow minds instead of the broad thinkers needed to solve this world's problems in human relations.

Human relations already are of vital importance to the students. Perhaps at college as nowhere else do they learn to live with one another.

Students learn to live with their fellow man only so well as they are taught by their fellows and by the members of the community surrounding them. It is significant that the 100th anniversary of the student body should fall in Brotherhood Week.

Perhaps no characteristic of the student body has declined over the past century so much as the Penn State spirit. This decline is partly natural, considering the present size of the University. Students are more refined, less boisterous.

But the University's history teaches that one of a college's most valuable assets is her spirit—to seek her advancement in every way as an undergraduate; to remember her help as an alumnus.

These are the lessons offered by a century of student history. They offer guidance to students for Penn State's next stormy century, which begins today.

Fifty-four Years of Student Editorial Freedom

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, 1924 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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FUEL



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Cooperation Marks Town-Gown Story

By Dr. Eric A. Walker
President of the University

There wasn't any town of State College when the first students arrived for classes at the Farmers' High School one hundred years ago.

The newcomers—they numbered 69 on that first day, but 119 before the first term ended 10 months later—traveled alone, first by train and then by stage. They dragged their bags and trunks across a hazardous catwalk and then up four flights of stairs to their new living quarters on the fifth floor of the still unfinished Old Main.

On hand to greet them was the entire faculty of four professors. After the students had met the faculty and each other, they were herded into shack-like buildings, left by the contractor at the rear of Old Main, for their evening meal.

The economy of the Borough depends, to a surprising degree, on the patronage of these students and their teachers.

But the end is not yet in sight. If the long range plans now on paper materialize in the next 10 years, the number of students will climb from 15,000 to some 25,000, wages and salaries will increase significantly and the educational offerings of the University will match the best there are in the country.

It's a large order, of course, and will call for the best effort of everybody involved, including students, faculty, alumni and friends. Perhaps most important of all, it will call for a growing understanding and co-operation on the part of the people on both sides of the street.

Today, the arrival of new students on a Sunday in September is an exercise in town-gown cooperation. Now they come by automobile, often accompanied by fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. They number in the thousands; and on hand, eager and willing to help, are representatives of the University, the State College Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Campus Patrol and the student government. They go not only to Old Main but to the Hetzel Union Building, the Pattee Library, Beaver Field and, sooner or later, to hotel dining rooms and restaurants throughout the town.

Not many years ago this influx of new students taxed the facilities of the community, overflowing hotels, motels and restaurants and creating a traffic snarl even worse than that on the day of a football game. But that was before the State and Borough Police joined hands with town and gown agencies well in advance of the event to work out the format for an unbelievably smooth and efficient operation.

Happily, there has come over the years the recognition that the University is a joint responsibility of town and gown—a partnership, in other words, to which each side of the street

owes its firm loyalty and support.

Take housing, for example. The community now accommodates (and always has accommodated) more students than are accommodated on the campus. The fraternity section alone represents "a community within a community" of some 2000 residents who pay taxes, buy food and services and make all the contributions expected of a member of the community.

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Looking Ahead

Students, Town Can Get Along As Neighbors

By BOB FRANKLIN

"Neighbors across the street" is perhaps the most accurate term which could be used to describe relations between the Borough of State College and the University's student body—relations which began 100 years ago yesterday.

A few houses composed the town when the first 69 students arrived on Feb. 16, 1859.

The beginnings of the town owed their existence to the establishment of the Farmer's High School.

But the town has long since outgrown its original function as solely a college town; it is a thriving business community.

And, by and large, we feel that it has been a good neighbor to the student body.

The students and the town meet each other on the common grounds of community projects, housing, individual business transactions and governmental operations.

The student-town record of cooperation in community projects has been outstanding. Of particular benefit has been work performed by fraternities during Greek Week, when fraternity men pitch in and do manual labor to benefit a host of public-spirited undertakings.

The record on housing is for the most part only fair, partly because for most of the last century the town has housed more students than has the University. But much of the town housing can be improved.

Students have a tendency to complain about "downtown merchants" taking unfair advantage of them. We feel that a careful examination of the facts will show that while this undoubtedly happens in isolated instances, it is not the predominant situation.

Perhaps governmental regulations have been the biggest snag in student-town "neighborliness," particularly in the area of the automobile.

State College has been relatively lenient toward routine police offenders, often preferring a lesser charge where students might be more severely penalized.

But the parking problem, which has caused untold hardship on both the University and the town, remains a major unsolved problem to the student body.

A greater knowledge and understanding of each other's views on this and all aspects of neighborly living can only be beneficial to both the students and the town.



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