

Editorial Opinion

New Education Opportunity

Penn State's recently announced study abroad program is unique in that students in the program will actually be attending Penn State classes in a European country.

The program, similar to ones conducted by other American universities but new to Penn State, adds a new dimension to the educational and culturally enriching experiences offered by the University.

There has already been a large response to the opportunity to study abroad, according to Dagobert De Levie, chairman of the committee planning the new program. Over 150 students have applied for the program, which is offered through the College of the Liberal Arts.

Students in any major with an All-University average of 2.5 are eligible to apply for the program. All applicants should be studying or have previous experience in speaking a Western European language.

Classes will be taught in English but students will live in private European homes near the university they attend.

At present the committee expects to set up programs at universities in France and Germany. If enough interest is generated among students, a program may be planned in Spain.

The study abroad program is an outgrowth of various requests and attempts by students to receive part of their regular university education in a foreign country. It is a worthwhile expansion of educational opportunity at this University.

Rivalry Needed

The Prof Snarf contest, which is probably the only inter-college competition on campus, is now in progress. It is sponsored by World University Service, an international organization which aids students who need help in all parts of the world.

They purchase textbooks where they are rare, provide health clinics when disease strikes and become an agency of relief in times of crisis

The method by which this worthy cause solicits funds for its goodwill missions, while not the most dignified way of raising money, is aimed at creating enthusiasm among students and faculty and interest in WUS.

Each college student council nominates "favorite son" and then students cast penny ballots for the professor of their choice.

With just two days remaining in the voting, we would like to see a little inter-college rivalry spur the contest on. It is a chance to help your fellow students in other lands, while boosting your college at the same time.

56 Years of Editorial Freedom

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 6, 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. Mailing Address - Box 261, State College, Pa.

Member of The Associated Press and The Intercollegiate Press

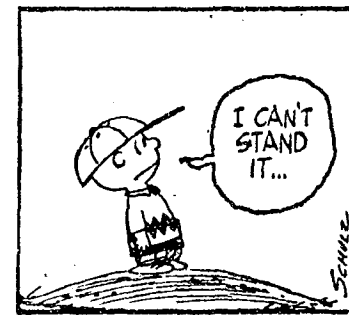
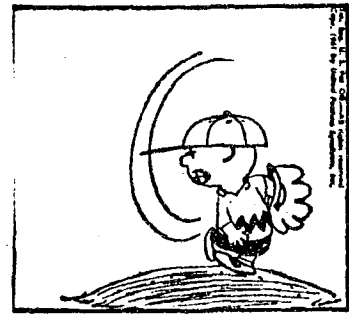
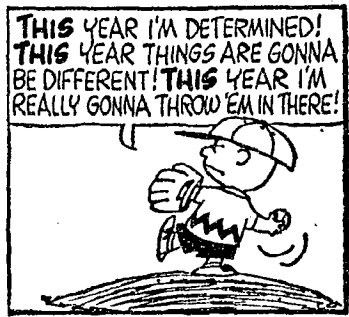
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Letters

Grades Count In Academic 'Rat-Race'

TO THE EDITOR: In reply to the letter which appeared in Tuesday's Collegian regarding our grading system I would like to compliment the writer for being such an idealist.

Everyone likes to think he is in college to gain general knowledge, and to prepare for the future, but each of us actually knows he is in the midst of a neurotic rat-race to obtain high grades.

This is best exemplified by the seniors contemplating applying to graduate schools. Their comments usually follow this line, "With my average of 2.85, I wouldn't even think of applying to a high-average university. They don't even consider an applicant with less than 3.00."

Granted that the purpose of our grading system is to indicate whether a person is an A, B, C, or D student, what makes an 89.9 student any less an A student than one who barely squeaks by with a 90?

And yet, that one 79.9 or a series of them may mean the difference between receiving and not receiving a sizeable scholarship or fellowship to a graduate school, given on the basis of past performance, letters of reference, and even an interview, but without a current measure of ability such as the Graduate Record Examination.

I strongly feel that our grading system needs a revamping. If one is going to assign letter grades, one must be aware of the fact that there is a great deal of difference between an 80 and an 89.9.

How can we afford to hold on to the pipe dream of "learning for the sake of learning" regardless of the grades obtained, when every young man and many women know how much emphasis, perhaps over-emphasis, is put on "good grades?"

Hats off to anyone who can devise a suitable and workable grading system which more accurately assesses a student's capabilities.

Letter cut

—Judith R. Gordon '61

Letters

H-Bomb Satellites Seen Possible Soon

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union's man-in-space feat could bring nearer the time when hydrogen bombing by satellite is possible.

The landing of the man-carrying vehicle in what Moscow refers to as a "prearranged area" is the most recent of a series of demonstrations by both the USSR and the United States that objects can be ejected from satellites and brought to earth at designated spots.

If this can be done with a five-ton vehicle carrying a man, and with smaller vehicles carrying animals and instruments, why can't it be done with a thermonuclear bomb?

Some U.S. military scientists say the use of satellites for delivering nuclear weapons on earth targets is feasible. Soviet weaponeers would be expected to have the same interest in that line of thought.

Considerable improvement in precision would be needed. An "area" into which a capsule is directed actually can be anywhere in several hundred square miles. Something nearer pinpoint aim would be needed even for the massive blast of a hydrogen bomb.

But the fact remains that both the Soviet Union and the United States now have mastered the technique of bringing down packages from satellites on command.

The Soviet Union has an-

nounced three previous recoveries of orbiting vehicles, carrying dogs and other life.

The U.S. Air Force Discoverer satellite series has produced four successful recoveries of capsules, ejected from satellites into prearranged areas. One was recovered from the sea, three have been snatched from the air as they descended by parachute after entering the earth's atmosphere.

The four recoveries were made from 16 satellites which went into orbit. On seven of these occasions, capsules were ejected successfully from satellites, but three of them failed to land near enough to the watching teams for recovery.

Like other details concerning Soviet programs, the score-board for successes and failures of its recovery attempts is not known. There have been rumors that at least one Soviet man-in-space attempt failed.

By contrast, U.S. efforts in both missile weapons and space vehicle projects have been reported officially and often in detail.

Column Draws Comment

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Joel Myers is a free man. He wants his country to "lead the cause of freedom." He dreams like a free man, anything . . . "the time of warning is past, the time to fight is now" . . . What a beautiful style, what a martial language. These are almost the words Hitler used to "warn" Benes!

If he thought like a free man maybe before writing in the Daily Collegian, Mr. Myers would try to make up his mind. I had always supposed that children and not free men spoke without knowing what they were talking about.

As a guest of this country I will not remind him that, unfortunately, tough or soft, the "foreign policy of the United States had very often the same results. I will not argue the fact that the "has-been powers" have enough troubles of their own without caring too much about the problems of the "disorganization of the United Nations" (even if they could bring to the U.N. some mature thought). Is Mr. Myers worrying about mature thought?

Since Mr. Norman Cousin explained in his lecture at Penn State how, after all the Laotians were obliged to call for Russian help (not Chinese), it seems strange to bring these people to freedom by killing half of them with the modern equipment for this kind of enterprise.

Besides, some people, who have nothing to bridle their imaginations but know their economic geography, say the Pathet Laos control a part of the country where opium is grown — (see Le Canard Enchaîné, Paris).

I am afraid that if war starts in Laos, or in the Congo, the Red Bloc will invade Western Europe. Sure enough America will try to free us, but the last time it was pretty hard, with mass bombing and the like, what about the future?

Maybe Lord Atlee thought about that when he came and asked President Truman not to bomb Korea and Manohuria. Lord Atlee didn't read The Daily Collegian, and maybe

Mr. Myers regrets the fact that President Truman lost his chance to top the Eichmann record. Such is history!

Some people have such old fashioned ideas about freedom!

Some may even think that a bad peace is worth a glorious war, some that no idea was ever defeated by weapons . . . some put their idea of man above the countries, above the philosophies, and think that in trying to understand, to have a free mind, they are the best shield against any kind of tyranny.

If you are going to fight in Laos, good luck. One always prefers freedom alive.

As for me, I am afraid I will have to go into Algeria next year. For seven years we have had some people who are fighting there for freedom and for the "Western Christian World" (very poetic in French). You see how they are misled!

—Jean-Pierre Bellingard

Gazette

TODAY

- Alumni College, 7 p.m., HUB assembly room
- BX Candidate School, 6:30 p.m., HUB auditorium
- Campus Party, 6 p.m., 212 HUB
- Chi Epsilon, 7:45 p.m., 212 HUB
- Chess Lessons, 7 p.m., HUB card room
- Council for Exceptional Children, 6:15 p.m., 214 HUB
- Cwens, 6:30 p.m., 218 HUB
- Gamma Sigma Sigma, 6:15 p.m., 111 Boucke
- Hillel, 9 p.m., ground floor HUB
- IFC, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., ground floor HUB
- IUCF, 12:45 p.m., 213 HUB
- Lacrosse Club, 4:15 p.m., Room 2 White Hall
- Placement, 7 p.m., 203, 212, HUB
- Prof. Snarf Voting, 9-5, 1st floor HUB
- Queen of Hearts, 8:30 p.m., 216 HUB
- Spanish Club, 8 p.m., 208 Willard
- SGA, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
- Sigma Tau Delta, 7 p.m., 217 HUB
- University Party, 7 p.m., 213 HUB
- WRA Golf Club, 4:30 p.m., game room White Hall
- WRA Tennis Club, 4:30 p.m., game room White Hall

HOSPITAL

- Lester Amann, Jean Arnold, Richard Bee, Stephen Brazina, Ronald Butler, Francis Carey, Judith Ceccoli, Susan Common, Nancy Crane, Charles Drum, Gail DuBrow, James Furniss, Elizabeth Guibord, Charles Hart, Thomas Holland, Edward Keifer, Mary Kahle, Mohammed Khan, George Kinard, Richard Krupp, Ingrid Leunis, Gaeton Longo, Mara Matich, Basachandra Mohanty, Richard Myers, Michael Nathanson, Susan Newby, Lawrence Parsons, Diane Richard, Frank Risch, Edward Roman, Barbara Sacks, Beverly Schane, Neal Sincov, Frederick Werner, Robert Wilson.