

Editorial Opinion

Finals—Term Trouble

For ten weeks the fall term careened along on its inevitable course, looking neither right nor left, stopping for no whim, demonstration, tradition or plea.

As with any experimental form of living, a period of adjustment was, and still is, necessary before a verdict can be levied. But also associated with any experiment is acute observation of the subjects involved and an attempt to negotiate any obstacles to the success of the plan as rapidly and as efficiently as possible.

During the last term this newspaper withheld direct evaluation of the term plan for three reasons. First, we did not want to prejudice reactions, preferring to do more observing than talking. Second, the plan was new and needed time to grow, to adapt and to be adapted to. Third, we do not have the facilities to undertake a representative and accurate analysis.

But our observations lead us to believe that one major problem is the lack of a final examination period.

In a university this size it is inevitable that at times the left hand won't know what the right hand is doing. In this vein, there were many assurances from the administration at the inception of the term plan, that there would probably be a deemphasis on final examinations due to the dissolving of the examination-study week.

But this was not the case. Comprehensive examinations were given in most courses.

We fully understand that dictatorial directives from any college administration to its faculty will immediately call forth, and correctly so, the fear that academic freedom is being circumscribed. Yet the educational aims of the institution should be shared by both the faculty and administration.

The situation thus faced by the student is a monstrous form of cramming under heavy stress which results in everyone being cheated. The faculty is cheated in that it cannot get the excellence it should expect; the student is cheated because he cannot, in a few days, organize and absorb the comprehensive premises and theories behind three or four courses; the administration is cheated because such a situation fosters unrest and resentment where such do not have to exist.

As we see it there are two solutions to the problem. There must be either a real deemphasis of final examinations in favor of periodic tests—or the reinstatement of a final examination period.

The former would involve implicit cooperation on the part of the faculty. The latter, although it would eat into vacation time and probably necessitate a hike in board fees, would seem to be the best answer.

A final examination period might bring with it some of the intellectual integrity which was lost when the term plan became an actuality. For although everything was done to equalize the classroom hours between the semester and the term, the earth's revolution around the sun remains the same—and that still means less contemplation time in an area where contemplation should be supreme.

To the Victors ...

Although a few games brought disappointment, the 1961 version of the Nittany Lions ended the season with a roar that pleased all Penn State followers.

Injuries hurt the Lions in early season games, and they failed to reach their pre-season billing as one of the nation's top ten teams by the end of the regular season.

Although some State fans were critical, Coach Rip Engle was confident that the team would be unbeatable if all the injured players were able to return to the lineup.

Engle's prediction was verified by the impressive victory over Pitt and the Gator Bowl romp over Georgia Tech.

The Gator Bowl triumph over the highly-touted Rambling Wreck has raised Penn State's grid prestige to an all time high.

For this achievement we owe the football players and coaches special thanks. They sacrificed their Christmas vacation "for the glory of Old State."

Blackboard

Day After the Night Before

by Johnny Black

It's odd that a city which is the site of a major bowl game should be more alive with celebrants and merry-making on the night before the big game than on the night after. But this was the case in Jacksonville, Florida, just one week ago.

All but a few thousand of the record-breaking crowd of over 50,000 that trekked to this city to witness the Gator Bowl were Georgia Tech partisans. And the haughty

southerners ruled the town Friday night. As they blustered from party to party they condescended to infer to the infidel Yankees that Penn State didn't play quite the same brand of ball as the Southeastern Conference teams.

And they were confident that they would be just as boisterous and happy Saturday night after the game proved their point.

The point proved by the game left Jacksonville in a hush.

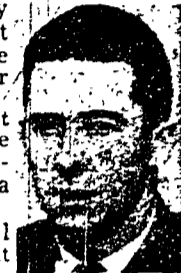
That rebel hush fell about three hours before dark, and about three seconds after Roger Kochman hauled in Galen Hall's second touchdown pass, culminating a drive that covered the length of the field in just one minute.

From that time on, the few thousand leather-lunged Lion lovers out-roared the whole city of Jacksonville with a display of spirit that made the 1961 Gator Bowl a historical event second only to Sherman's march to the sea.

While the attention of the viewers was forcibly focused on such superfluous items as the Gator Bowl Queen and Miss America, the handful of Penn State students who had journeyed to the southern climes rallied to honor their team.

Marching through the Georgia Tech stands with "Wreck Tech" banners unfurled, they rushed the gate and poured onto the field to form the traditional honor line. The students were joined by exuberant alumni and even sailors and Marines whose accents betrayed them as Yankees.

The only din of merriment in this suddenly silenced city on Saturday eve arose from the lair of the Nittany Lion.



BLACK

now and again

Have Everything?

by polly dranov

Did you ever stop to wonder what the people who have everything do with the Christmas gifts "for the people who have everything?"

For instance, what does the executive do with the monogrammed yo-yo advertised in the New York Times just before Christmas? The yo-yo is solid walnut with

three sterling silver initials (so what if you don't have a middle name). The Times ad also says the yo-yo can be used for a paper weight in more serious moments.

I suppose "the man with pull" for whom the ad says the yo-yo is intended could use it for therapeutic relaxation, but what happens when a client walks in to see this trusted executive practicing "loop the loop" or "walk the dog."

The New York Times also advertised such luxury items as solid gold toothpicks. The toothpicks come in a leather case and for the more elegant there are gold toothpicks with diamonds and initials. I don't know if you need gold teeth to make use of this item, but I think that



Miss Dranov

it would match beautifully.

In a feature story December 21, the Associated Press listed some gifts which they billed as "better to give than to receive." Among the items which were advertised under the heading of "things you probably never knew existed" are false doggy eyelashes and automatic dog waterers which are mechanisms by which Rover can get his own drinks. What was that about a dog's life?

There are also luxurious domestic items which are somewhat more commonplace. For instance, the New York Times Magazine had an ad for a sterling silver whisk broom complete with monogramming. This charming little item is only five inches long and will fit in a desk, suitcase, purse or dresser.

Maybe next year they'll have handy little jars of silver polish in purse-sized kits to keep the whisk brooms clean and shining. After all, who'd use a tarnished whisk broom?

Snowed

Another Record?

by joel myers

The record snowfall of last winter could be duplicated this year if the weather pattern that prevailed last month continues until spring.

The heavy snowstorms of last winter produced new seasonal snowfall records throughout the central third of the Commonwealth and in sections of southeastern and southwestern Pennsylvania.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of last winter's unusually heavy snow can be found in Harrisburg's weather records.

The normal winter snowfall in the capital city is 30 inches, and the heaviest seasonal snowfall previous to last winter was 55 inches.

By the end of last January that record had been surpassed, and when the last snowflake had fallen in April the season's total was an amazing 81 inches.

The snowfall in State College was similar to other areas of Central Pennsylvania and the old seasonal snowfall record of 75 inches was exceeded by 17 inches.



MYERS

Although the weather pattern during the past four weeks has resembled the one that prevailed through most of last winter, the snowfall has been more erratic and somewhat lighter.

To date 12 inches of snow have been recorded here as compared with 25 inches last year. A storm that is expected to bring heavy precipitation to the Commonwealth late today and tonight may add several inches to the snow total.

Whether or not last year's extraordinarily heavy snowfall will be repeated this winter cannot be determined. However, if the upper air pattern remains essentially unchanged through March, the snowfall should be considerably greater than normal.

Since upper air patterns often retain some degree of persistence from month to month, snow shovels, boots and snow tires may prove handy equipment in the coming months.

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 Prices: \$6.00 a year

Mailing Address - Box 261, State College, Pa.

JOHN BLACK Editor

WAYNE HILINSKI Business Manager

