

Editorial Opinion

Looking Back ... and Forward

The school year is almost over. We don't know whether to mumble a slow, tired "thank God" or to heartily shout "too bad it's all over—it's been an unforgettable year!"

Although this year has probably made a different impression on every student who attended the University, there can be little doubt that this year has had terrific impact on all involved.

We are now completing the final days of the first year of the term system. This educational system was devised by Penn State for Penn State. It would be an understatement merely to say that it has been controversial.

The system with its four terms per year, its 75-minute periods, its lack of a final exam period, its emphasis on fewer subjects studied over a shorter period of time, its long Christmas vacation, its lack of a four-day Thanksgiving vacation and an Easter vacation and many other situations have made many heads spin.

Although students have voiced both good and bad points in the four term system, few will deny that there has been a certain excitement attached to being "the guinea pigs."

As the term system with, we hope, certain modifications becomes more deeply entrenched on this campus and similar plans are adopted by other schools we can always look back as the ones who suffered the initial shock of the "noble experiment."

We have seen what appears to be the beginning of an awakening of an intellectual spirit on campus. Overflow crowds attended the speeches made by Vice President Johnson, former U.N. General Assembly president Charles H. Malik and the debate between Senators Hubert H. Humphrey and Karl E. Mundt which was followed by two hours of concentrated student questioning.

Students watched and listened with avid interest to the orbital space shots of John Glenn and Malcolm Scott Carpenter. They reverently witnessed the deaths of Dag Hammarskjöld and Sam Rayburn. They studied with interest the President's reaction to the steel price hike and watched the recent movements in the stock market.

In student affairs at the University we have also noticed drastic changes during the past year.

Student government adopted a new system of representation and a new name. The football team received a bid to the Gator Bowl and came home victorious. La Vie began work on an entirely new format. Plans for a Homecoming float parade were made. Organizations all over campus have developed projects which are indeed creditable to the student body.

While it has been a year of change in many cases, it has been a static year in other areas. After a long debate, our state budget request was not approved. The expansion of the University has been frozen due to lack of funds. Plans for a student bookstore have been shelved. Little concrete action has been seen on downtown housing. We still have compulsory ROTC.

It has indeed been an interesting year, a profitable year, an unforgettable year. We glance backward with mixed emotions, but look forward with great optimism to the future of our graduating seniors, our University and our own future as a student newspaper—For A Better Penn State.

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meandering

Penn State Spirit

by joan mehan

What happens to the old Penn State spirit? When freshmen first come to State, they are enthusiastic and full of spirit but somehow in four years this all seems to be lost.

Graduation is often looked upon as a final release from a four-year prison term. Seniors are so apathetic about State that most of them just can't wait to get out of the place. It used to take about half a year to rid the freshman of his Orientation Week-instilled spirit but with the speeding up of everything under the term system, it only takes 10 weeks now to make him apathetic.



MISS MEHAN

The sophisticated sophomore

feels that he is above the dull humdrum of the University and the junior is just putting in time.

What causes this apathy? Well, during Orientation Week freshmen are welcomed by everyone from the President of the University to the sophomore living next door to him. This is often the last time anyone makes him feel welcome. Many students spend four years at Penn State without ever seeing President Walker or a University official again, unless they find themselves in either academic or disciplinary difficulty.

Students in the same college usually get together twice in four years, once at the President's Convocation and again at graduation. Between these times, students have little contact with the University except for professors in classes. Only in formal situations do the lowly students meet with the up-

per echelons of University officials.

If more professors would have informal sessions with their classes and at least try to learn the names of their students, students would feel more a part of the University. Even if a prof divided a large class into smaller sections and had a "coffee and doughnut session" in the Lion's Den after class this would bring about a closer relationship. I don't think that undergraduates are so horrible that a prof couldn't stand them for a few leisurely minutes.

This wouldn't completely eliminate the problem but at least it would help. Who knows—maybe some of our alumni would be proud that they were once a part of Penn State. Perhaps at graduation at least a few seniors would be sad to leave "old State." It wouldn't be as if 64195901 were graduating but a Penn State student whose name is known by someone besides himself.

focus

Hong Kong: No Vacancies

by den coleman

In a recent letter to the Editor of the Daily Collegian a student complained of the treatment to the refugees of the communist government on the mainland of China who have, in the past few weeks, tried to enter, illegally, into the British colony of Hong Kong.

For years now the British have been letting the escapees from the communists enter Hong Kong. In the last several weeks the flow has been stemmed and the most recent refugees are being rounded up after they cross the border and being shipped back to the Red Chinese.



COLEMAN

For the Chinese who managed to escape into Hong Kong life has been far from easy. The author of the letter stated that the conditions in Hong Kong are overcrowded. Overcrowded is hardly the word to use. The conditions in the section of Hong Kong in which

the refugees live are somewhat akin to those of the proverbial sardine.

This section is nothing but a mass of wooden shacks with no sanitary or other modern conveniences. In many cases, more than one family lives in a room smaller than a dorm room here at Penn State. Possibly a dozen or more people, living, eating, sleeping, and carrying out their other day-to-day routines in one room.

The student asked why the government has not set up quotas for refugees. If such quotas had been set up, it is very possible that many of the people now in Hong Kong would not be there.

The Chinese Nationalist government on Taiwan has offered to accept some of this influx. Taiwan is not a rich country and from first hand observation I can tell you that Taiwan is also overcrowded.

Taiwan, that island in the far Pacific is more rock and mountain than anything else, and it has enough problems trying to support the native population without caring for its brothers from across the East China Sea. The reader now asks why

the United States does not accept these refugees in large numbers. The answer is relatively obvious. Aside from the economic problems this undertaking might entail, the major consideration is the nature of the refugees themselves. The Chinese culture, considered by some to be inferior, has endured for many hundreds of years. You just don't take a poor downtrodden Chinaman and move him and his family into the complex world of America in the 20th century.

He has been relatively untouched by the advances of the 20th century.

For centuries the Chinaman has been content to live the simple, uncomplicated life of his ancestors and earn a living in the ancestral rice paddy.

If he were uprooted and placed in our complex world he would have a hard time adjusting to the "American way of life."

Campus Beat

The Campae at a Peek

Well, it is almost summer vacation time for those of us who are not attending the summer term. I am taking a scholarly leave of absence this summer and will be conducting some research in Ocean City, N.J. If you're in the area, drop in. I'll be in the ocean.

Did anyone happen to see the little item in the Centre Daily Times, the State College newspaper, which concerned whether or not some of the University coeds ought to pull down their window shades at night. Hmmm... I wonder where the staff of the CDT have been spending their nights.

The BOT, that's the Board of Trustees for you outsiders, is meeting this weekend. They are holding one of their quarterly meetings. But we won't know everything that takes place until the middle of the summer. The Board does not allow anyone from a newspaper or anyone outside the Board itself to attend its meetings and the University dribbles out the news of what went on over a couple months.

In fact, one observer said he thought the Board met year 'round. He said that it seemed that everyday something came from the Department of Public

Information on what the Board has done.

It seems as though the reluctance of the fraternities to participate in the Homecoming Float Parade opens the door for the dorm units and the town independent men to put on the parade.

It's that time of year again when all sorts of people receive college diplomas. Besides awarding degrees to those thousands of qualified students who have spent years in school to earn their degrees, almost every college and university in the nation gives honorary degrees to persons from members of the President's cabinet to movie stars.

I sort of admire this University in resisting this gimmick which is designed primarily to guarantee a speaker for the commencement exercises.

I'd like to say goodbye to the past Collegian editors. They caused me a few headaches at times but they sure were a great bunch!

It looks as if this school year will end with the mystery of the big red feet still unsolved.

See ya next year. —Prof Wayne

