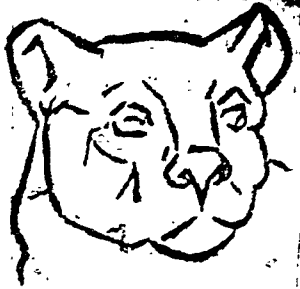


Editorial Opinion

The Lion Roars



For the 1962 Penn State football team which during this fall season succeeded in capturing the coveted Lambert Trophy, a bid to the Gator Bowl and the confidence and deep appreciation of the Pennsylvania State University.

By voting to accept their bid last night to play in Florida's Gator Bowl on Dec. 29, the members of the team sacrificed a segment of their well-earned Christmas vacation. But through their action, they have made a great contribution toward building a fine reputation for this University.

We admire this decision for it shows that the team, being one of if not the top team in the nation, realizes the important function which they can perform "for a better Penn State." And that they are willing to do it.

We offer this team our strongest praise and support for the Gator Bowl as they practice for this nationally-awaited event. We take the liberty to speak for the entire University when we say: "We are behind you all the way!"

Final Exam Compromise Failing as Pressure Solvent

As finals approach, it becomes increasingly apparent that the three-day final examination period, about to undergo its trial run, will need some adjustment before it serves as the finale to another term.

The three-day exam period was approved by the University Senate last year. It appears as if it were a compromise between those, mostly students and some professors, wanting a full finals period, and the administration, wanting to adhere to the original blueprint for the term system and have all finals on the last two days of classes.

The compromise now appears unworkable.

Finals, this term, are being spread out over the entire last week of classes, much as they were last year, as well as being held during the three-day exam period.

The complaint of students that they are having finals in some classes while trying to keep up with normal course work, quizzes, papers and even bluebooks in other classes, has not been silenced. The same thing is happening this term.

Also, neither the three-day period nor the plan calling for finals during the last two days of classes solves the students' problem of having a burdensome number of finals in one day.

Conflict final exams have not been scheduled where students are slated for more than two finals in one day as was done under the semester system with its long final exam period.

Conflict finals have been scheduled only where there will be a direct conflict between two finals. A student with more than two exams on one day is eligible for a conflict exam only if one has already been scheduled due to direct conflict.

For some this leaves three and even four finals piled up on one day. Such a situation is unfair to students who have struggled all term for high grades just to see them all drop because they did not have time to prepare for all their finals at one time.

Although, as we understand it, one of the original purposes of the elimination of the long final examination period last year was to deemphasize finals, the opposite extreme seems to be occurring. With the short 10-week term, many professors are giving only one bluebook or a midterm and a final. These two grades often constitute the entire basis for a course grade.

We see no easy answer to this problem. But some better programs must be worked out.

Perhaps it would be possible for the last two days of classes, now unofficially understood to be final examination days, to be made official finals days. These two days along with the present three-day exam period would provide more time in which professors could schedule and students could study for their final exams.

Other solutions certainly worth consideration are reverting back to the former long final exam period, or officially eliminating comprehensive final exams on this campus once and for all.



kaleidoscope

Good Intentions

by kay mills

'Tis the season to be jolly (almost) and watch good intentions go up in the smoke of Yuletide candles. If you're anything like this champion procrastinator, you have a list of vacation "musts" as long as your letter to Santa.

Topping the ol' list is sleep, the unknown quantity of the college career. And sleep may well be the only thing we'll check as done.

When we finally wake up, we can turn to Christmas shopping or the pile of books we'll never read. None of this advance preparation stuff for me. It's not that I don't want to further my education and be ready for next term. I'd just like to squeeze in a few of the books everybody but me is talking about.

When we don't finish that, we can turn to writing letters to all those people we met last summer. The Christmas card list grows as one tires of using the same trite phrases (or profound philosophies, if you choose) in each epistle.

By this point, we are also tired of those necessary checkups at dentists' and doctors' offices. We are even considering making preliminary contacts about summer jobs. We've read every magazine in the place, watched every television program, heard the won-

ders and woes of the neighborhood and called every high school buddy we can think of.

Holiday jobs deal the death blow to any hopes of turning the good intentions into completed tasks. Somehow a day spent wrapping packages or playing Santa Claus for several hundred greedy little kids makes the idea's desirability diminish.

We will turn back to the checklist and consider (but probably forget) visiting Aunt Martha or Cousin Egbert, who lives across town. We wonder when invitations will start pouring in to all the parties the kids said they would throw. Are we being avoided or are they demonstrating the typical decrease in energy which accompanies a few home-cooked meals?

Food, now that I think of it, is another item of high priority. Anything, just so it tastes good and is meat. Or tasty. Or served in the quiet of our own homes or apartments.

Somehow about this time the good intentions are being hidden by all the tinfoil and the glittering enchantment of Christmas. Then the hordes, from other colleges start descending on Hometown, USA. You may return to camp in January with an unblemished checklist, but in mid-December you'll have remembered the very best intention of all—to enjoy a memorable holiday season with family and friends. So—HAPPY HOLIDAYS and to heck with the good intentions.



MISS MILLS

Letters

Thanksgiving Dinner Praised By Freshman

TO THE EDITOR: The students of Penn State have often heard, among themselves, many criticisms doubting the virtue of the term system, and some attribute to the system a complete dearth of respect for the individual student. We seem to constantly refer to the student as being just an eight digit number that, with luck and cramming, will be handed a degree and filed away as "number graduated" to the ranks of the "alumni."

On Thanksgiving Day many of us could see clearly and proudly for the first time the true meaning of being a Penn State student, and for at least this day we feel the warmth and affection felt by all Penn State alumni.

The time and planning that went into the preparation of the Thanksgiving dinner served in our residence halls was not spent in vain. To the student body, it expressed the respect and consideration for the individual that reflects the entire educational system of Penn State. It showed the understanding and unity that are State's faculty, student body and services, even though that understanding seems foreign to many when the grades are posted.

It is impossible for any person or persons to make a holiday on campus replace Thanksgiving Day at home with our families and best girl, but, as we resume the insane pace of studies, we realize that the constant battle to educate ourselves is not entirely one-sided at State.

Even as frustrating and timeless the struggle be to understand what is expected of us as individuals and as a student body, and for each of us to utilize his own talents and strengthen his weaknesses toward his responsibilities and goals, we know that it is far more than a computer and a filing cabinet that directs and disciplines us. If it is a machine that runs our lives these four short years, we realize, on this day of thanks, that at State, that machine is made of human emotion and mutual respects.

—J. Glenn Barton, '68

Prof Forwards Letter on PSU

TO THE EDITOR: As a non-attender of the PSU-WVU football game, I cannot speak from first-hand observation re. the statements made in the enclosed clipping from The Daily Athenaeum. Either the hoodlum behavior occurred or it did not, and proof would not be difficult to obtain. If the statements in the clipping are substantially true, then it seems that some sort of public apology from representatives of the student body are in order.

The attire of the students is of no particular concern of mine, but as one who has been identified with PSU and who presumably will be an alumnus as of Dec. 8, I am concerned with the remaining content of the "charges."

—Carl B. Taylor  
Asst. Prof of Family Relations

Penn State Students Criticized

(The following letter is reprinted from the West Virginia University student newspaper, The Daily Athenaeum.)

TO THE EDITOR: I, as a member of the University Marching Band, would like to thank the Penn State Blue Band for the very warm reception and the refreshments that they gave us at Beaver Stadium Nov. 10.

We, as a band, were treated "great" by the Penn State band, but the reception given us by the student body was somewhat different. It is very disheartening to a band to be booed and to have numerous objects thrown at it when it is performing or preparing to do so. When the WVU band was preparing to perform its halftime show, we were subjected to a barrage of toilet paper, mud, rocks, wadded-up paper containers, eggs and pop bottles.

I would like to say that anyone will find that the student body here is most hospitable to visiting organizations. In my opinion, our student body—especially the girls—are always well-dressed to give a favorable impression of our school to visiting groups. This means being appropriately dressed for the occasion and for public view. Again this was not the case at Penn State. I have never seen poorer taste shown by a school in mode of dress than was presented to us by the Penn State student body.

This is an expression of my opinions and are not necessarily those of the University band members or the band director.

—Ed Gilger

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