

"Mini-Colloquy" Continues Active Learning Philosophy

By KATHY McCORMICK
Collegian Staff Writer

"Mini-Colloquy" carries on the spirit of the Colloquy philosophy this summer. Colloquy, meaning "a conversation, especially a somewhat formal one," is a student initiated educational program with a philosophy that strives for "the continual interaction of minds and ideas," according to Edward Beckwith, co-chairman of the summer Colloquy.

This philosophy first took form Spring Term in a week long Colloquy called "The American Dream... Conflict '69". Featured Keynote speakers Ralph Nader, Muhammad Ali and Al Capp each drew audiences between 3,000 and 5,000. The residence-based program included panels and discussions with invited panelists who were specialists on the topics of discussion. The response to Colloquy was so favorable that a staff was retained for the summer Beckwith said.

Beckwith said the purpose of the mini-Colloquy is to expose freshmen to Colloquy through three panel discussions to be held August 5, 6, 7. Topics of the discussions are "Drugs, Escape or Imprisonment," "A National Crisis—Black or White," and "The University: Is There a Place for Students?" Invitations have been sent to prominent students, faculty members and administrators to participate on the panels.

In discussing Colloquy and its initial success, Beckwith often used the words "community" and "cooperation." He said "Colloquy was the first time students, faculty, administrators and townspeople worked toward one community objective." He explained that money for the activities came from dozens of the various colleges, student organizations, the Undergraduate Student Government and downtown merchants. Administrators and students offered their services while members of the faculty took part on the panels and advised the student organizers.

Through such cooperation, the Colloquy

staff hopes to achieve a "common goal...the enrichment of our academic environment." Such an academic environment, Beckwith said, goes far beyond learning in the classroom. "Living is an education. Students shouldn't think walking into a classroom is the best way to get their education because a great deal of learning can take place out of the class."

Rather, Colloquy strives to make students "aware that education is a self-motivating process." Beckwith said that a student who goes to panel discussions does so on his own initiative. Colloquy is therefore "self-motivating and out of the classroom," he said.

A progress report of Colloquy called the program a new learning experience. By different groups of people working and learning together, it should "lessen the communication barriers between student, faculty and administrators as well as striving toward realistic curricular reform."

The summer staff feels it is part of a continuing program and as such is projecting its plans for next year. Fall Colloquy will concentrate on American higher education. Beckwith said invitations would soon go out to educators all over the country for the fall and winter Colloquy will be based on the first spring Colloquy, although Beckwith said, "We strive to present a unique experience with every program."

Amidst such ambitious goals, the staff has several projects for the summer, including the planning of the August panels. They have also distributed 2000 questionnaires to faculty members to find their areas of interest and suggestions for the future.

John Muntone, assistant professor of Human Development, is Colloquy's advisor. Terry Jablonski USG Congresswoman, is co-chairman. Don Schall is also working with Colloquy this summer. Schall originated the basic idea of Colloquy early Winter Term when he was Academic Affairs Commissioner of USG.

Stitched Cloth Map Shows Him the Way

Blind Prof Proves Efficiency of Man

He's never even seen it, yet he probably knows the Penn State campus better than most people who have lived there all their lives.

He knows every tree, every bump in the road, every crack in the sidewalk.

Even the wind whistling by a telephone pole or a puddle along the curb can have special meaning for Abraham Nemeth, visiting professor from the University of Detroit.

Nemeth, you see, is blind.

And although sightless since birth, his life has become a series of feats that even those who can see would have a hard time rivaling.

Visiting Penn State as part of a special nine-week study Institute, Nemeth, who already owns degrees in psychology and mathematics, is fast becoming an expert in the field of computer science and even goes to theatre, enjoys the movies and "watches" television.

"I have to say though, I don't care much for 'Mission Impossible,'" he laughs, referring to one of today's top TV spy thrillers. "There's just too much tiptoeing around. For 15 minutes at a time all you hear are footsteps, car horns, doors opening and closing and a lot of clicking noises. For guys like me, you know, it gets kind of tough figuring out what's going on."

To Nemeth, an associate professor of mathematics at the "U of D" as he likes to call it, life is simply a matter of paying attention.

"People today really only operate at about 40 per cent efficiency," he explains with the calculating mind of the mathematician he's always been. "And that's not bad, because the moment anything goes wrong, you have something in reserve. If people worked at 100 per cent efficiency, then they'd have nothing to fall back on."

The map on his wall at Penn State is living proof of what he means.

It's no ordinary map, but rather a piece of cloth, six by three feet, hanging from several thin strips of masking tape. The map is a large scale

shipping clerk during the day and playing the piano in the back rooms of bars at night.

"Finally, one day, my wife said to me, 'wouldn't you rather be an unemployed mathematician than an unemployed psychologist?'" he recalls. "That's all I needed."

And so in 1946, Nemeth went back to school to start all over again. Actually it meant starting from scratch, because to achieve his doctorate in math, he had to make up a large number of undergraduate courses first.

It also meant devising the country's first mathematical system in Braille providing a means for the blind to read and interpret the complex mathematical. From the simple two plus two to the complicated expressions of algebra and calculus.

The results of his work were published in 1965 as "The Nemeth Code of Braille."

Small wonder, then, with this type of system, that one of the instructors in the Computer Science Institute which brought Nemeth to Penn State in the first place, remarked: "He knows the campus better than I do, and I teach here."

"I use a white cane of course," Dr. Nemeth points out. "But it's not really for me. I don't use it to find my way or anything like that. It's really something to let the other guy know about me."

A member of the faculty at the University of Detroit since 1955, Nemeth actually started his academic career in the field of psychology because way back in my undergraduate days, they told me math was too hard for a blind man, and unlike students today, I listened."

He received his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Brooklyn College and his master's degree in psychology from Columbia.

But no one seemed to be hiring blind psychologists in those days, and so Abraham Nemeth found himself working as a

Mathematics and Scientific Notation.

But the real payoff came in 1964 when he was awarded his doctor of philosophy degree from Wayne State University—18 years after he started.

For relaxation, Nemeth plays the piano... "mostly the popular stuff, you know, music to steal hubcaps by and things like that."

"Sometimes I play classical music too, but then I buy sheet music in Braille."

But if there's one thing outstanding about Abraham Nemeth, it's his sense of humor. It's always there, whether he's talking about his work, his fun or his handicap.

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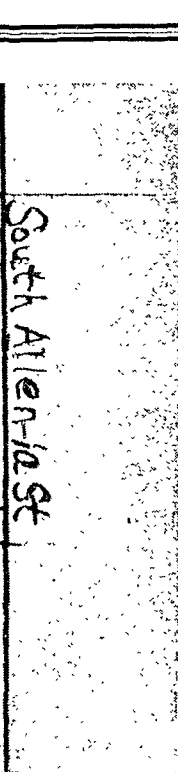
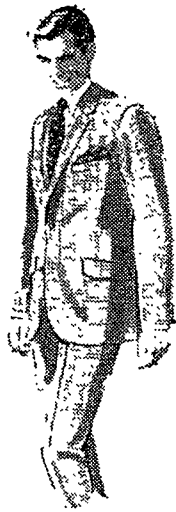
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This Year's Emphasis On Children

Third Festival Begins

A casual remark was made at the winter meeting of the State College Chamber of Commerce in 1966. "Let's have an arts festival," someone said.

This week, July 19-27, brings to State College the results of that casual remark—the third Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

As described by David A. Leherr, Public Information Officer for the festival, it will be a "unique blend of town and gown for the third straight year in a presentation of art, music, theatre and dance."

The greatest change in the festival from past years is the emphasis on children. This year's festival will offer many more attractions for children than ever before. Programs for the children will include: a film festival, an art show, creative dramatics, an art workshop, poetry and the Williamson Puppet Show, according to Leherr.

Leherr explained that the main reason for such an emphasis on children is to get adults to come to see the festival. He said there must be exhibits which are interesting and attractive to children so the parents feel free to look around while their children are attending a program designed on their own level.

"That isn't to say that adults

won't enjoy some of the children's shows. It is that the children can enjoy the festival, too, and without getting bored," he said.

One major criticism of past festivals, according to Leherr, is that there has not been enough outside talent. This year's festival has changed that, too. Included in the list of outside talent are the Walt Harper Jazz Quintet, The American Brass Quintet, the Salvadore Guida, mime and Josef Smiley, magician.

Local talent will be well represented, also, to include the Alard String Quartet; Earl Wild, classical pianist and Alma and Jack Bassett, a dance team.

Also included in the agenda for the festival are Helen McGeehee, dance lecturer, Eunice Norton, pianist and Samuel Hazo, poet.

There will be a variety of indoor and outdoor theatre productions including "The Marriage Proposal," "The Bore," and "Babes in Arms." Some of them will be performed by North Catholic High School of Pittsburgh, winners of the 1969 Pennsylvania High School Drama competition, and the State College High School.

The art, photography, crafts and experimental film contests, which have drawn entries from around the state,

will be judged by professionals in each field and prizes will be awarded.

A clothesline art show will be presented on the fences which have been erected on College Avenue and around the mall on campus. Paintings will be hung on the fence for exhibition and sale and should be reminiscent of Greenwich Village and San Francisco, according to Leherr.

Housing some of the programs for the festival will be the honeycomb buildings being constructed on campus. They are an experiment of the architecture students of the University to determine whether the structures can withstand the weather. If the experiment is successful, the structures might provide a new and cheaper building material for homes and office buildings.

The Central Pennsylvania

Festival of the Arts is sponsored by the State College Area Chamber of Commerce and the University College of Arts and Architecture with the support of the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. There is no admission fee to the festival, the finances for the program coming from a \$3500 grant from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and from thousands of dollars worth of gifts, Leherr said.—RR



Shades of Berkeley?

NO, NOT REALLY. The fence along the wall on College Ave. and up the mall was set up for the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, July 19-27. The fence will be used for the Festival's "Clothesline Art Show" where paintings will be exhibited and sold.

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