

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings during the University year, the Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper.

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

Editorials represent the viewpoints of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the paper, the student body, or the University.

Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

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When Tests Count Too Much: Cheating

A practice which encourages dishonesty ought to be discouraged. About this everyone can agree.

It might be worth considering, then, a proposal that would discourage the practice.

The proposal: That no test, term paper, report, or any single unit of work done for a course, may determine greater than one-third of the grade a student receives in any course, excluding those courses exempted from this regulation by the dean of the college in which the course is offered.

We are convinced that such a regulation would have the effect of cutting cheating. It is a safe assumption that a study would show that cheating is proportional to the pressure on the student. The greater the pressure, the more likely cheating will be employed as an escape from it.

Pressure on the student results from over-weighted examinations. When one single blue-book or final can affect a student's final course grade excessively, many students take the easy way out: they cheat.

A final which counts 50 per cent of a student's course grade is an example of such an overloaded test. But it is not a rare example. There are many courses in which the professor adopts, as standard operating procedure, a system of two tests and a final. In these cases, the final determines at least 40 per cent of the final course grade.

As the Senate Subcommittee on Academic Honesty at Penn State put it in its excellent report adopted last spring: "... Incentive to cheat must be reduced. . . Here again the faculty can help greatly. Cheating occurs largely where students feel that only thus can they get a grade they feel they must have. The faculty should avoid making any individual grade more important to the student than is absolutely necessary."

Who determines what "absolutely necessary" means? Any professor can read this report and nod his head confident that his tests which weight 50 per cent of the final mark are "absolutely necessary."

But we can think of few courses which would be greatly altered by giving more than three tests, cutting down on the importance of each.

Besides cutting cheating, the regulation would lead to more tests which would result in students reviewing their work more often and assumedly learning it more thoroughly. Educators agree that cramming doesn't educate. Over-weighted exams encourage cramming; exams given more often and carrying less emphasis encourage studying.

Despite these arguments, this proposal, were it introduced before University Senate, the faculty body which rule on such matters, would probably meet with strong opposition.

Faculty members would feel their academic freedom and their right to teach as they see fit is being tampered with.

This is not necessarily so. The Senate, in the interests of the well-being of all, has been known to pass legislation which might likewise be interpreted as limiting the instructor's rights. Such a regulation is rule I-9 of the Senate Regulations for Undergraduate Students which lists five conditions which must be met before an instructor may schedule evening examinations. Few faculty members oppose this rule.

Regulations about what the instructor may or may not do in his classroom are not bad, per se. The proposal stated here would alter the professor's routines only slightly.

We are convinced the regulation would cut cheating, thus easing the burden on the professor to police his classes. Such a development would be welcomed by all faculty members.

This regulation, then, would cut student cheating in tests, by removing the pressure which is partially responsible for cheating. It would increase the amount the student learns by forcing him to review more often instead of cramming. It would, it is true, increase the amount of effort the professor would have to exert in drawing up tests and decrease somewhat the amount of time he would have for teaching. But it would not decrease the amount of effort the instructor must spend in policing his classes.

This proposal is in the best interest of the student and of the professor, since both are concerned with the student getting an education. It is worthy of the consideration of the University Senate.

—The Editor

Double Jeopardy: The Reasons Why

The disciplinary policy of the University as it affects students who have already been subject to civil punishment has been the occasion of much student resentment.

Many students contend that for the University to discipline a student after he has already received civil punishment places the student in "double jeopardy" and is thus unjust. One punishment for one infraction is sufficient, they contend.

We believe that much of the resentment directed to the administration has resulted from a misinterpretation of the University's policy in regard to such matters.

The policy of the University is essentially this: It does not deny that a student who is punished by both civil and University authorities is placed in double jeopardy. It contends, however, that such double jeopardy is neither unjust nor peculiar to the University. The administration feels that many civil infractions of students reflect to such a degree on the institution that they demand attention by University authorities.

Wilmer E. Kenworthy, director of student affairs, puts the administration policy this way:

"It is a simple fact that a student who 'gets in trouble' is in double jeopardy. This is not a situation peculiar to Penn State or to colleges and universities. Every individual is responsible not only to the laws of the borough, state, and nation, but to his family, his friends, his employer, and such organizations as his church and clubs.

"It is well known that when a man is guilty of misconduct he pays his penalty before the law, and then faces the fact that it may cost

him his job. His employer has to decide whether or not what he has done reduces or removes his worth to the organization, or reflects on the organization in such a way that he must be separated.

"What the University does is, taking cognizance of what civil authorities decide as to the guilt or innocence of a student in relation to civil or criminal law, to decide about his future as a student. In some cases the decision is that what he has done indicates that he is not a desirable citizen of the University community; sometimes that he needs to be denied the privilege of attendance for a short period of time; and sometimes that he needs to be put on probation.

"These decisions are based on three factors—what the student needs to make him understand what he has done and learn from the incident; what penalty he must be given to indicate to other students how the University feels about his actions; and what needs to be done to indicate to the public that we disapprove of such actions on the part of our students."

The administration has placed much of its disciplinary authority in the hands of the students themselves in order that the infractions may be dealt with in the most understanding manner possible.

We honestly believe that the University attempts to administer its policy in a fair and just manner. The cause of much of the resentment may be that the reasoning behind policy has heretofore not been adequately explained.

—Mike Miller

And They Wilt

Fraternity men proved themselves wise men Monday night. Their Interfraternity Council representatives voted to discourage corsages at the IFC-Panhel dance.

A corsage represents a beautiful gift and is a nice gesture, that cannot be denied. But it also all too often represents a financial burden to the giver.

When a man pays \$5.00 to take his date to a dance in addition to the sundry expenses of a big weekend at Penn State, corsage giving becomes impractical to the great majority whose financial means are limited.

Many schools have long banned corsages from their dances to alleviate such financial strain and to encourage more people to attend the dance. This is sensible and it is proper for the IFC to adopt this policy.

We hope the sponsors of other University dances follow this sensible step.

—Mike Miller

Gazette

Today
ACCOUNTING CLUB, 7 p.m., Phi Kappa Tau
DAILY COLLEGIAN sophomore board circulation staff, 6:30 p.m., Collegian office
HORT CLUB, 7 p.m., 108 Plant Industries
MARKETING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Phi Mu Delta
MINERAL INDUSTRIES STUDENT COUNCIL, 7 p.m., 209 Hetzel Union
NEWMAN CLUB CHOIR PRACTICE, 7 p.m., Catholic Church
PENN STATE BARRELL CLUB, 7 p.m., 102 Willard
PENN STATE CHESS CLUB, 7:10 p.m., 7 Sparks
Tomorrow
INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, 7:30 p.m., 220 Electrical Engineering
PHILOSOPHY CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 209 Hetzel Union University Hospital
Donald Catlin, John Earhart, Barbara-Lee Edwards, Murl Hockenberry, William Hoke, Joseph Humphreys, George MacCubbin, Phyllis Pavloff, Raymond Pottios, John Rusnak, Karl Schwensfeier, Joakob Stekel, Paul Talley, William Thomas, and Elizabeth Tolan.
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
The following camps will conduct interviews at the Student Employment Agency, 112 Old Main. Interested students may sign up for interviews there.
CAMP WISE, Ohio, Feb. 23.
CAMP HIRAM HOUSE, Ohio, Feb. 24 and 25.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Our sorority has only ONE entrance requirement, Elsie Mae."

Quips and Quotes

By RON LEIK

In a dramatic session last week, the House rejected the administration's latest attempt for a new tax law. Meanwhile, the State's scholastic institutions continue to operate on borrowed time.

We can't say whether the University is hard pressed, but recently we've been seeing soiled shovels and maps of buried treasures in the comptroller's office.

We understand that faculty members have made so many loans that the local banks could go into the real estate business.

If things don't get better soon, Campus Chest may have another cause next year.

Some say we're going to send several professors to the \$64,000 Question.

The curtains in second-floor Simmons started burning last week and a volunteer fire company was called in.

It took the firemen only 10 minutes to put out the fire. It took the coeds 30 minutes to put out the firemen.

One professor has noted the arrival of a new genre of humans called HUB-worts.

These are students who can be removed from the HUB only by a surgical operation.

An anonymous contributor sends along this thought:

"It would seem that those students scheduling three or more courses by television this semester may find it advisable to purchase a TV Guide along with their textbooks."

Did you hear about the optometrist who buys old light bulbs to put in the lamps in his waiting room?

The Dean of Men issued this statement last week:

"Any behavior calculated to incite or contribute to mob action will be treated with the utmost severity."

This may bar some coeds from wearing tight sweaters in the HUB.

The advertising men of today must believe that the shortest way to the pocketbook is through the funny bone.

Maybe they think that if they make you laugh hard enough, they'll shake some money out of your pocket.

Anyway, a current advertisement by a motor car company shows a 1956 station wagon packed to the roof with people and luggage.

The caption calls the car: "Tops on the 'tote-em' poll."

And a shirt manufacturer asks the girl friend to buy her beau an Arrow.

The people who live in the State College area are fortunate

in being able to see a selection of foreign films, some of which are of as high a quality as many Hollywood movies.

But we question whether sometimes something isn't lost in translation, especially in a scene, for example, where the hero delivers a three-minute monologue to the heroine and the screen then reads: "May I walk you home."

We are privileged to report that foreigners have the same problem with American films.

In a Western, which was shown in France, a cowhand comes up to the bar and says, "Gimme a shot of redeye" and the subtitle read: "Un aperitif, s'il vous plait."

One sunny Sunday last fall, a student was focusing a camera on a young thing, obviously not a coed, who was posing in front of a foliage-covered wall of Old Main. "Look out," he said. "That's poison."

"Darn," she replied, "why don't they cover these buildings with that pretty ivy you see at other colleges?"

Keep sending in those cards and letters, friends. That address is The Daily Collegian, Carnegie Hall.

Library Exhibits 'Book Processes'

The Pattee Library is now featuring an exhibit on processes used to reduce the cost and bulk of books. These processes have made it possible to acquire reproductions of rare volumes.

The exhibit, which includes newspapers and manuscripts on microfilm; theses and old English plates on microcards; and three major projects including one for reproducing all American books before 1820 in microprint, will continue until February 29.

Collegian Circulation Staff

The Daily Collegian sophomore board circulation staff will meet at 6:30 tonight in the Daily Collegian office.

Tonight on WDFM

7:25	Sign On
7:30	Marquee Memories
8:00	Music of the People
8:30	BBC Weekly
9:15	News
9:30	Virtuose
10:00	Thought for the Day
10:30	Sign Off