

BOOK REVIEW

HOUSE OF DARKNESS

By Allan MacKinnon

In 252 pages the author of this mystery does a splendid piece of work on an old plot by giving it a new twist. Evidently he realizes the susceptibility of individuals to human frailties, for he endows his protagonist with a few of them; thereby making his yarn more plausible and interesting.

The initial setting is Cairo. Here is where international gangsters curdle their witches' brew, a plot to sabotage England's home industries, using a cult, Christian Retrospect, for a front. The scene shifts quickly to the Isles while Jeny Gray, a British official posing as a businessman, is shown an early curtain in the best Capone tradition and dumped into the Nile. Fortunately, he left a senseless but highly important message in the able hands of Colin Ogilvie, who was London bound after seven years of nomadic life in Africa and India. The strict orders to deliver it immediately to Sir Alan Dexter. Instead he reluctantly ponders his return to domesticity. His attitude changes quickly when he finds himself shadowed, his room ransacked, his life threatened twice and Sir Stanley kidnapped. Enter, curvacious Kay Toring. Frustrated by Fate and Retrospect, he wisely summons the police. The case soon finds its way into the hands of Inspector MacCallum of Scotland Yard. It is he who crystallizes the solution while Colin chases the Colonel and his abductors to Scotland where he in turn becomes hunter and hunted.

The other characters present a wide variety ranging from unknown Zillah, of Coups d'etat, to retired schoolmaster Mr. MacLean, whose age has neither his wit nor his observation.

And there you have it, murder in Cairo, motives in millions, mutilation in Scotland, and mush in London.

This is Mr. MacKinnon's second book. His first, *Money on the Black*, was but a foreshadow of coming events. In this book the author uses his details effectively, keeps the plot moving, and rations his descriptions. Indeed, the essence of this story is based on actual fiction, and not as is often the case, fictional fact.

New Rehearsal Time For HUC Band

Band rehearsals are now being held every Monday at 4:00 P. M. It was believed that this new time would enable the students to get to practise without undue hardship.

The band is still in the market for new members. Any new students who are interested are requested to contact Miss Garbrick.

FOOD FOR IDLE THOUGHT

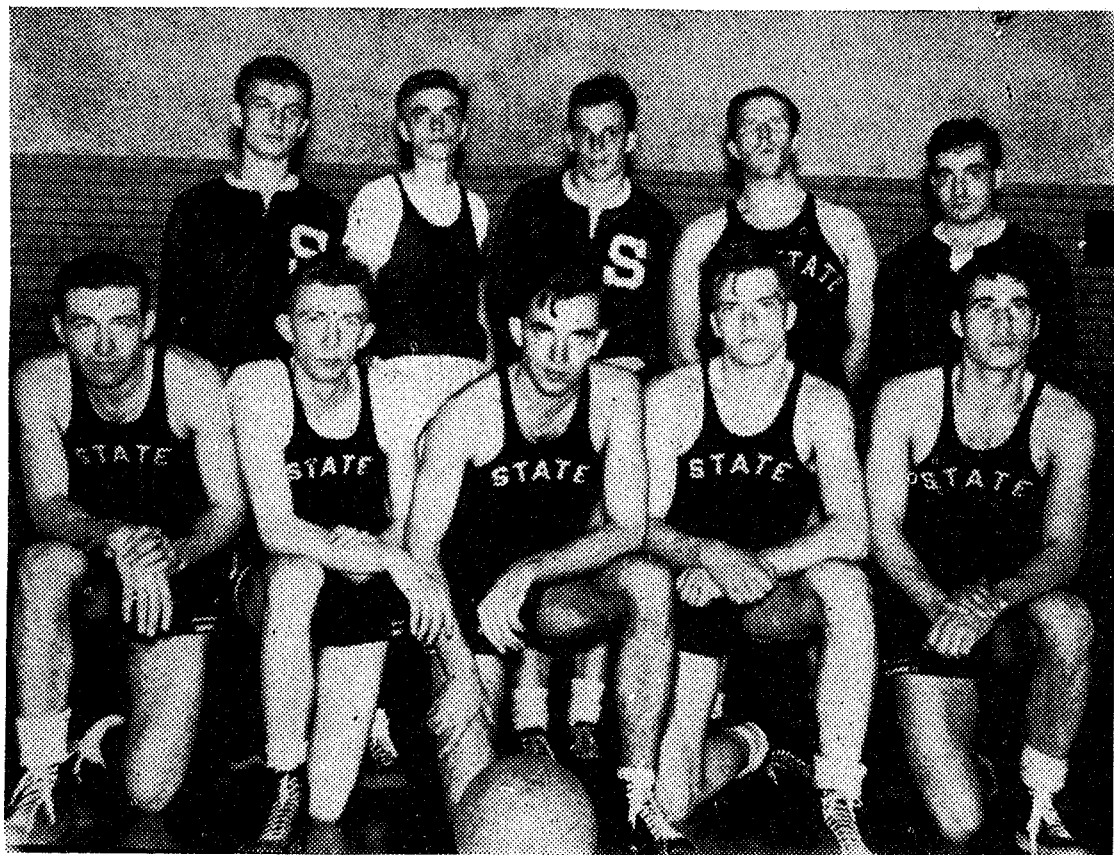
A man who had only a two-dollar bill wanted to buy a bus ticket that would cost him three dollars. He took his two-dollar bill to a pawnshop and pawned it for \$1.50. On the way back to the bus station he met an old friend of his to whom he sold the pawn ticket for \$1.50. He then had the three dollars with which to buy his bus ticket.

Who was out the extra dollar?

Ah, pensive scholar, what is fame?
A fitful tongue of leaping flame;
A giddy whirlwind's fickle gust,
That lifts a pinch of mortal dust;
A few swift years and who can show
Which dust was Bill and which was Joe?

—O. W. Holmes

EASTERN DISTRICT CHAMPS ???



The members of the HUC basketball team, favored to win the Jr. College Tournament this week-end are pictured above, they are : Kneeling L. to R. Durbach, R Jordan, Riley, Barnes, Apichella. Standing: L. to R.: Suitch, Munroe, Williams, Maday, Polumbo.

VETERANS' COLUMN

Any veteran in training who has changed, or is contemplating a change of address should notify Mr. Sacco, at our local V.A. office. After all — they have to send all those checks somewhere.

* * *

If you receive a Form No. 1963 through the mail, complete it and return it to your local Veterans Administration Office or mail it to the Wilkes-Barre Office.

* * *

Public Law No. 16. The Veterans Administration has received authority to withstand emergency hospital and medical expenses for those veterans who are training under Public Law No. 16. However, you must notify the local V. A. office as soon as such treatment is necessary.

* * *

During a recent survey conducted at a large university in the Mid-west, it was found that married vets made higher grades than single vets, and on an average, the single vets made higher grades than the non-veterans.

* * *

Practically all the universities in the country are filled to capacity. The veterans are still enrolling for the fall semester of 1947, so it is not expected that there will be any noticeable relief of the crowded conditions for another year.

"This is just the place for me,"
Said the humorist at the shore,
"For here when e'er I crack a joke
The breakers simply roar."

A woman is a person who can hurry through a drugstore aisle 18 inches wide without brushing against the piled-up tinware and then drive home and knock the doors off a 12 foot garage.

PEEKIN' IN PIGEON HOLES

After several conferences with various instructors, your reporter was impressed by the condition of the desks of these learned people. We will try to give you a thumbnail sketch of the desks of Dr. Ramsay and Mr. Broadley.

MR. BROADLEY

An atomic blast could scarcely create greater disorder than the disarray present on the desk of Mr. Broadley, our genial English instructor.

Directly in front of him stands an impressive array of books with bombastic titles. These are the weapons he utilizes to parry the endless questions of his students. In the right corner of the desk is a box of tissues, with the advertisement picturing the "Carole Landis Love Brooch". The advertisement reads, "Please accept this \$1.50 value for only \$.25". Continuing with all the flowering terms of the advertisement, it reads, "A breathtaking offer to you — exquisite reproduction of the gorgeous cameo love brooch worn by Carole in her motion picture, "A Scandal in Paris".

Included among the rest of the mess are two erasers (well worn), one ash tray (filled), one bundle of themes (lowly but deservedly marked ? ? ?), one bottle of Carter's Cico (paste to you, chum), and those two Penn State Bibles, Naylor, and Espenshade, Gates and Mallory.

DR. RAMSAY

The desk of our good Doctor is even worse than that of Mr. Broadley. Your reporter attempts no description; indeed, it is not within the bounds of the immense English language.

To the right of the desk, a large box with the inscription "Pet Milk" on its sides, bulges dangerously with an overload of books. Numerous papers are scattered as if by a tropical storm. Immediately facing your reporter lay the inevitable "History of Europe" by Gillespie. Just a wee bit further to the other side of the book, a brown leather briefcase, showing years of service, lay with its zipper half open. What else did you expect to find? "Keerect", pictures of cats — cats sleeping, peering into sewers, and, of all things, a cat with his head protruding from a policeman's coat. If that isn't enough, there is one picturing a cat on the turntable of a recorder, a "Hep-cat", no doubt. That's all, brother, that's all.

A daring, erring herring swam out to sea

He was a seafaring herring as salty as could be
And he'll swear, this erring herring, that he never took a drink
But the fact still remains that he makes an awful stink.

Duty is carrying on promptly and faithfully the affairs not before you.
It is to fulfill the claims of today.

—Goethe

College-bred refers to something which requires a fearful amount of dough, is seldom self-raising and usually proves to be nothing more or less than a four-year loaf.

—H. C. Whitver

According to a recent survey, four out of every five students have already made plans to attend the COLLEGIAN DANCE.

Faith is a fine invention
For gentlemen who see;
But microscopes are prudent
In an emergency.

—Emily Dickinson

An English dancer says sleeping out of doors makes one beautiful. At last we're able to account for the charming appearance of the average hobo.

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SUGGESTION DEPT.

Marriage Clinic

Today, in our newspapers throughout the land we hear of many sex outrages, broken marriages and general degeneration. A major cause of this, it has been proven, is the lack of sex education to the masses. It might not be a bad idea to install here at HUC regularly scheduled classes in sex education and marriage. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is no idle statement in regard to the matter of marriage. Many young people venture out into the sea of life woefully lacking in the essentials of what is right and what is wrong. The same is true of those embarking on marriage. Many broken marriages can be traced directly to the lack of the proper conception of just what marriage means, and what it entails. Couples properly educated and informed would realize that marriage is a give and take affair; they would be able to iron out differences logically and advantageously.

HUC has among its students some who are married, and many more who are contemplating it in the near future. Now is the time to reach these people with the necessary knowledge they need to make their life a happy one. We also have men and women on the faculty, who the COLLEGIAN feels would be able to conduct lectures and courses in marriage and sex education.

It should be made a compulsory, although no credit, class period. Perhaps four or five lectures spread out through the remainder of the semester could be arranged. What students would learn in these classes may save them misfortune and tragedy later on. The powers that be should think it over.

I rose and gave her my seat;
I could not let her stand
She made me think of mother, with
That strap held in her hand.

Watch for it, Club Collegian!

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School Calendar

- April 3—Easter Vacation begins April 3 at 5:00 P.M.
- April 9—Easter Vacation ends at 8:00 A.M.
- Friday, May 30—Memorial Day Holiday.
- June 2—Examinations begin.
- June 5—Examinations end.
- June 6—End of Spring Semester.
- June 28—Registration for Summer School.
- June 30—Summer Session begins.
- August 8—Summer Session ends.
- August 9—Registration for Second Summer Session.
- August 11—Classes start.
- September 19—Summer School ends.
- September 21—Freshmen Week starts.

TIME'S AWASTIN' Get Your Date NOW For The Collegian Dance FRIDAY, APRIL 18th