

Penn State Collegian

Published weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College in the interests of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the College.

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News Editor for this Issue: G. S. Wykoff

NOT MERELY A VISION

Several weeks ago, the COLLEGIAN started the idea of a large social hall as a memorial to the boys from Penn State who fought and died in the great struggle for democracy which ended last fall. The plan met with much favor and the Senior Class appointed a committee to take up the matter with a view to starting such a fund as a class memorial. It was felt that once such a fund was started, it would continue to grow if it were only pushed properly, and the COLLEGIAN even suggested a committee to handle the proposition.

During the past week, the idea has been talked over to a considerable extent, with the result that a new plan has been proposed—a plan which if it is carried out will make Penn State unique among the colleges of the country. The plan is simply this—to establish not only a social hall as a memorial, but to establish an enormous Union which would include not only a social hall but also a new and up-to-date gymnasium with everything that goes with it.

The need for a social hall has been admitted for some time, but the need for a real gymnasium is perhaps even more keenly felt. At the present time, a fifth-rate armory is being used for a first rate gym—a thing that would be laughable if it were not so serious. The locker and shower facilities were devised for a student body of about one-third the size of the present enrollment, and no arrangements were made for the woman students at all.

What do we need? In the first place, we need the gymnasium itself with complete apparatus and with a floor large enough to accommodate the increasing number of students. We need a swimming pool and enough showers to encourage the use of the gym by the students, and we need special showers and lockers for the woman students. We need an indoor running track and sufficient room for the winter sports of our athletic teams. And lastly, we need our social hall where students and faculty can mingle on the same basis and where the spirit of democracy would be fostered.

Now we see what we need. How could such a union be established? While no plans have been drawn up as yet, informal discussion has brought out the following suggested plan. The location could be on the field to the rear of the Armory, with the front facing toward the President's House, and the building extending back toward New Beaver Field.

Adjoining the road and affording the main entrance would be the social hall, three stories high. In the basement would be kitchen facilities and a small hall where organization dances and dinners could be held. On the other two floors would be rooms for the Athletic Association, the Alumni Secretary, the Department of Physical Education, the Y. M. C. A., the student governing bodies, the college publications, and for various society and committee meetings.

Extending back from this main building, could be three wings. In the center, with a high sky-light, the swimming pool could be located, with all of the necessary steps and entrances. One of the other wings could be fitted up with showers and locker rooms for the men students, while the other could be similarly arranged for the women. Still further to the rear, and with entrance from both locker rooms, would be the gymnasium proper.

In the basement of this building could be built the indoor running track, and by the use of high windows, ample light would enter for the indoor training required by the athletic teams. The main floor would be the gym with all of the apparatus required, with courts for basketball and mats for the wrestlers. Sliding doors could be so arranged as to divide off the one end of the gym for the use of the girls, so that the gym could be used at all times. These could be thrown back for games and meets and portable bleachers could be brought in for seating the crowd. This large gym floor would also serve as a dance floor for the few big all-college dances.

And now you say come back to earth and talk plain English. Very well, but this scheme is far from being a vision, if we understand the students, alumni and friends of Penn State. And let us not forget that this is to be a memorial to those Penn State boys who offered all they had to their country in time of need. Moreover, it will be a lasting memorial and one in which everyone can have a personal interest.

How can such a proposition be financed? Simply by two methods—the one, by legislative appropriation and the other by popular subscription. A committee will certainly have to be appointed to boom the proposition both at home and in the legislature. However, Penn State has earned such a building, for her record in the great war has brought nothing but credit to the great state which she represents. We feel that the state owes Penn State a new gymnasium as a means of fostering the plans of the army for general physical education, and we also believe that the legislature will be ready and willing to co-operate in building such a Union as is here proposed.

We do not feel competent to devise the minute financial details that will be necessary, but the COLLEGIAN does believe that if the state were to appropriate half the amount needed that the students, alumni, and friends of the college could gather the rest. It is a big proposition, but the COLLEGIAN believes that Penn State is accustomed to tackling big propositions and that this one can be put across. But it requires action and it is a challenge to every Penn State man, regardless of his connection with the college. Are YOU going to accept it?

ELECTED TO STAFF

It is with great pleasure that the COLLEGIAN announces the election of the following Sophomores and Freshmen as reporters on the Editorial Staff. The Sophomores elected are: W. M. Blaisdell, H. S. Davis, and F. L. Leuschner. The Freshmen who were elected are: R. H. Beck, W. A. Brecht, W. Decker, R. Lincoln, R. L. Rogers, and C. E. Scherer.

These men have been selected after a competition lasting from early in January to the present time, and they have shown themselves to be the best of the men who responded to the first call. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that almost fifty Freshmen reported for the competition at first, and of these, only a small number have stuck to the job.

On the Corner

ALL ABOARD FOR THE HOUSE-PARTY SPECIAL

Yes, dear reader, we have decided to call this issue of the collegian our "house-party number."

Merely a house party "on the corner," so as to speak. Quick, Watson, the needle!

And then that quaint old game of "celui-digging" will be on once more

Yes, and some whom we know must have been in the contracting business, for they sure are wonderful "excavators"

But then you know, variety is the spice of life, and we sure will get lots of "seasoning" over the week-end

If George Washington only knew what a good turn he did us by being born in February. Just think, if he had been born in June or July or some other such time!

WILL YOUR PARTY BE LIKE THIS—Meet HER at the train. Introduce her to the BOYS. Meet her AGAIN three days later and bid her farewell, after having vainly tried to follow her flight from brother to brother!

OR LIKE THIS—Meet HER at the train. DRESS the first evening.

HEAVEN the second evening. PROPOSE the third evening. And much weeping when the train pulls out on Monday morning!

Yes! And there is going to be SOME CIRCUS in the Armory on Saturday night. Watch the NITTANY LION twist the PITT PANTHER'S tail. Everybody out.

We have heard that Valentines were quite the o. of the d. last week. Even heard of some girls who put their names on 'em to make sure he would know who sent them

Oh yes, February is quite an interesting month, even if it is a short one. And if it weren't for February, we would never have any LEAP YEAR

Nut Sed!

MINING NOTES

On Friday evening, February 14, the Mining Society held an interesting meeting in the Old Chapel, Old Main Building. The speaker of the evening was Mr. R. J. Forker, Mechanical Engineer for the H. Koppers Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa. His topic was "The By-product Coke Industry" and was illustrated with a series of moving pictures showing the various details of Koppers Company by-product coking plants.

Mr. W. K. Chedsey, Professor of Mining, is in New York City attending the annual meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

ELECTRO-CHEMS MEET

The first meeting of the Electro-Chemical Engineering society was held Friday night in the Electro-Chemical laboratories. The main purpose was to organize and elect officers for the coming year. Only a few turned out and it was decided to postpone the elections until February 25, when a feed will also be held.

DEBATING QUESTION HAS BEEN CHANGED

It has been found necessary to change the question chosen by Penn State for the intercollegiate debates, owing to the fact that Penn State had some objections to these debates as being arranged. The question proposed was "Resolved: That, within twenty-one months following the declaration of peace, Congress should provide for the government ownership and operation of the railroads."

Pen State had some objections to the above question on the grounds that it may be acted upon in Congress before the time of the debate and also because in a limited sense many of the principles of the question were debated last year. But if Congress does not settle the question too soon, a good debating season is looked for as some of the leading colleges in debating circles are on the schedule for the year.

FORMER AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS MEET SATURDAY

The agricultural alumni and former two-year and winter course students in agriculture will meet here for a luncheon and business meeting at noon on Washington's Birthday, Saturday, February twenty-second. This follows the general alumni amok to be held the evening before. The object of this meeting is to acquaint the former students with the plans for the development of the School of Agriculture and Experiment Station and to enlist their interest in putting through the appropriation for the college.

ATTENTION SENIORS! Bear in mind the Senior dance on March 14th at Old Fellows Hall. Admission, one dollar.

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INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS TAKE TRIP TO ALTOONA

The students in Industrial Engineering spent the week end in the shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Altoona in inspecting their methods of stock keeping, accounting and routing.

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