

Penn State Collegian

Published Semi-weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College, in the interest of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the College

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News editor this issue: A. G. Pratt

THE WORK IN HAND

Now that the half-way mark in the college year has been reached it might be wise for students to pause just a brief while and consider what the past semester has given them, what its effect ultimately may be as the result of too little or too strenuous application to the work in hand. Many of us are prone to begin a new semester in whirlwind fashion, that speed sooner or later culminating in a slump out of which many may fail to reappear, with the result that the close of the semester finds them in woeful condition. The number of below grades that are issued during a semester and especially those announcements that close all expectation when the unfortunate finds he is not on a par with his classmates at the end of the period, give sufficient indication of the necessity of students applying themselves to their work in earnest when the proper time is at hand.

We hear too much late boasting during the college year, while students declare there is no necessity to worry over a certain course because they feel satisfied over the attitude of the instructor. It is idle talk. In many cases, as is learned later with sorrow, it is the work of some imaginative mind, so be not coerced into believing there are easy ways to knowledge in a subject by the prating of some short-witted classmate. If it is his desire to learn only through the most bitter methods offered by experience, let him do so. Look out for yourself, that you be not forced to learn the same way.

The past semester is no exception to the rule nor are students or today any different from those of other years in this respect. Men will throw away valuable time, moments that in the final summing up would undoubtedly have meant their passing a course successfully or even making a good grade in it. Of course after the semester is over it is too late. The consequence must be met. Most often it is the instructor who is blamed, whether the fault lay with him or not, and in most cases it may safely be said that the real reason for failure was the student's own disinterestedness. The inconvenience that faces one, the bitter moments of sorrow and self-lashing that follow, are all the result of too little application when the proper time was at hand.

It is not the intention of this article to state that all men should be grinds. That is the other extreme. A grind finds no place among college men, men who really do things while at college, both for themselves, their fellow students and the college, and who are really big men in future life. The grind is mostly a solitary chap, unfortunate and without knowledge of the cause. There is a happy medium between the two. It is the course followed by the student who, with common sense prepares his work when he has it at hand, who conscientiously fulfills his every duty, neglecting not one iota of the work that is thus given to him to do, nor the numerous phases of college life that are open to him. The man who follows this middle course will get something out of college. He will profit by his instruction and others will find him a man among men when he enters the work of the world without his college sphere. He has time for many things because he neither overdoes one nor willfully neglects another. He is the man who has learned while at college that to be successful means application, earnest and concentrated on the matter in hand, at the proper time.

It might be wise for more students to follow such a plan. It would result in less below grades, better relationship instructor to student, more satisfaction at the close of the semester on the part of both parties and a better knowledge of the value that rests upon each piece of work that has been done and that remains yet to be done.

Now that winter evidently has decided to remain with us for a short space, it might be wise for all persons to be careful with their health. Colds are very easily contracted during weather such as we have been having. There is no excuse for the person who willfully refuses to go about properly clad to meet the exigencies of the weather. Again, the practice of making slides on sidewalks should be discouraged. It is most discourteous to elderly people and certainly is a very dangerous habit since it endangers life and limb of all who traverse them. "Safety First" is the watchword that we should all try to emphasize while weather of this type continues.

THE SPIANS TO ANNOUNCE TRIALS FOR CAST SOON

Competition for parts in the cast of the musical comedy which the Thespians are planning to produce in the near future will be held within seven or eight days. The trials for the cast will be held separately from the trials for the chorus. Those students who possess any ability along theatrical lines, whether it be as amateur Hamlets or vocally as Carulus or Amator are requested to be present at the try-outs. As soon as the competition has been held a period of intensive rehearsing will follow in order that the play will be ready for staging directly after the close of the Easter vacation. When the play has been successfully introduced to Penn State the Thespians will

take it on the road and produce it during week-ends, in several of the larger cities of Pennsylvania. The comedy is being prepared, with the aid of several members of the Thespian Club, for presentation at Penn State, and will be submitted to the college authorities in the near future for their stamp of approval. The cast will include some thirty-five characters, all of which will be interpreted by men students. A production of this kind calls for a great amount of managerial work, some of which is of a very pleasant nature. Freshmen who are interested in this kind of service and who would like to become members of the managerial staff are invited to try out for the positions by meeting the present manager tonight at seven-thirty in Room 14, L. A.

"THE BOOKMAN" PRAISES PLAYERS' NEXT COMEDY

Mr. Clayton Hamilton, writing for "The Bookman," endeavored to show in the following article just why the popular melodramatic piece, "Seven Keys to Baldpate," was such an instantaneous laughing success. He writes, in part: "A popular novelist has made a bet that he can invent and write a publishable book in the brief space of twenty-four hours. To accomplish this task he retires in the dead of winter to a deserted summer hotel on the top of Baldpate Mountain. The caretaker instills into him, gives him what he insists is the only key to Baldpate, and leaves him to his solitude. But during the next hour, six other people, each of whom supposes that he has the only key to Baldpate, let themselves in separately and unpermittedly, and involve the hero in a tangled mesh of many plots. The resultant action is equally compounded of the elements of farce and melodrama. There is a wild whirl of incidents, a bruising murder, among other matters, being enacted in the middle of a scene of laughter.

"Since this piece is both exciting and ridiculous, ninety-nine stage-directors out of a hundred would have assumed, as a matter of course, that it should be played in a rapid tempo. But Mr. Cohan is a better artist than the other ninety-nine. He has conducted the play with an unprecedented slowness, and thereby doubled its value as an entertainment.

"The exposition is worthy and redundant, but by the end of the first act, it becomes evident to the spectator that these apparent defects have been deliberately admitted to the fabric in order to make the action move more slowly. By this extreme slowness, the opening Mr. Cohan has managed to work up a cumulative sense of mystery which grows exceedingly acute at the first curtain-fall.

"Again, in the second act, the humorous aspect of the melodrama is enhanced by the deliberate pace at which the piece is played. In many passages, the audience laughs heartily, not at what has happened in the preceding moment, but at what is going to happen in the next moment, and that effect is exceedingly rare in the theatre. There is an admirable scene at the outset of the second act. All of the intruders are sitting around the hotel office, under cover of the hero's pistol. The young man has just informed them that there they must sit for many hours and none of them shows a tendency to talk. Only now and then a disgruntled remark is ejaculated by one of the seditious sufferers; and this is followed, in each case, by a pause that seems at least a minute before a retort is hurled from another of the characters.

"During these long pauses the audience develops an excitement of humorous expectancy that grows so potent that each of these delayed remarks is responded to at once with roars of laughter. The very same dialogue, if it were conducted in a double-quick tempo would call forth hardly any laughter, and this fact is, in itself, sufficient proof that Mr. Cohan is a craftsman of extraordinary talent."

The ability of the Penn State Players to reproduce Mr. Cohan's work faithfully has been shown by the manner in which their other productions have been staged. If your first semester has been hard and dreary and you have ac-

quired, as a result, an acute sense of "blues" take a trip to Baldpate Inn on February eleventh and let the seven keys in the hands of seven clever players unlock sufficient mystery, thrills and laughter to keep you refreshed and happy for weeks to come. Tickets may still be procured by mail from D. D. Mason. They will also be on sale at the Co-op Wednesday and Thursday evenings, February ninth and tenth.

CRAB APPLE CLUB HAS HEARD GOOD SPEAKERS

Within the last few weeks the Crab Apple Club has had its meetings honored by two noted speakers, "Daddy" Groat and Dr. U. F. Hedrick.

On January 25, Dr. Hedrick, horticulturist of the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva, addressed a large assemblage of the horticultural students on the subject of plant breeding. Dr. Hedrick is one of the best known plant breeders, especially of fruits, in the country and has succeeded in producing several varieties of value. He pointed out in his talk the opportunities offered in horticultural research and the great work that needs to be done in the scientific breeding of plants.

"Daddy" Groat gave a very interesting and instructive illustrated talk on the methods which are followed by Chinese gardeners and at the Canton Christian College, where he is located. He brought out the contrast, in his talk, between the American and the Chinese methods of cultivating their crops. He said that practically all the field crops in China are grown in narrow raised beds, which makes the use of horse drawn machinery impossible. For that reason all the work is done by hand. He also stated that the Chinese know nothing at all about green manuring as practiced in America. The scarcity of wood fuel makes it necessary for them to cut the grass in the fields and wild herbage to use as fuel and do not plow it under as is done in this country.

"Daddy" Groat's trip to Penn State was primarily to interest students in the work of Penn State in China. From the latest reports, eight men have volunteered to take up agricultural missionary work in China after graduation.

Most Good Dressers Bring
Their clothes to us for cleaning, pressing and repairing. They have forbidden a habit which is hard to break. You ought to join them—why don't you do it today?
E. W. GERNARD.

QUICK AND EFFICIENT SERVICE
OUR STANDARD
PENN STATE CAFE

MEAT MARKET
ALL KINDS OF
Fresh Meats
J. D. KELLER
ALLEN STREET

A. DEAL
Plumbing & Heating
FRAZIER STREET

The Varsity Pool Room
UNDER POST OFFICE
POOL and BILLIARDS
CIGARS, CIGARETTES and CANDY
H. G. MORRELL, Prop.

All County Clubs who have not returned proofs or identified same, are urged to do so at once, to the PENN STATE PHOTO SHOP.

The PENN STATE PHOTO SHOP
212 E. College Ave.

DEBATE BIBLE CLASS PLANS BOOSTER MEETING

An enthusiastic meeting was held in the 'Y' Hut Monday evening to discuss plans for the development of a real live Bible class from the present Debate Bible Class. One of the important matters discussed was a social entertainment to be held in the Old Chapel sometime in the near future. W. M. Sharp '21, chairman of the social committee of the Y. M. C. A., gave a short talk in which he offered several valuable suggestions for the social end of the Bible class's work. Dr. S. W. Fletcher, who conducts the meetings of the class, also gave a brief talk in which he endorsed Mr. Sharp's suggestions. From the appearance of this meeting conditions point to a very successful year for the class.

Save the Date
The Senior class will hold an all-college subscription dance in the Armory on Friday, March 4. Admission will be one dollar, and a half, plus the war tax. Further announcement of particulars will appear later in the COLLEGIAN.



LOST
A gold watch on the campus or in locker rooms. Finder please return to Collegian Office or Y. M. C. A.

Ham Sandwiches
Our Every Day Special

5c
NOTICE

Beginning February 1st
Candyland & Cafeteria
will close at 11:30 P. M.
Send for your Sandwiches or Ice Cream before closing time.
GREGORY BROS.

Quick and Efficient Service
OUR MOTTO
PENN STATE BARBER SHOP
G. L. SMITH, Prop.

Men, Women and Children
HIGH SHOES
1-3 to 1-2 Off
ALSO SHOWING
NEW SPRING STYLES

College Boot Shop

Our February Offer
A Genuine Reduction
Shirts Caps Hosiery
Neckwear

SHIRTS \$1.45
Reduced from \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00
\$2.45
Reduced from \$3.05, \$4.00 and \$5.00
CAPS \$1.95
Reduced from \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 and \$5.00
NECKWEAR \$1.45
Reduced from \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$4.00
HOSIERY--Interwoven and Phoenix
45c
Reduced from 75c
85c
Reduced from \$1.25
\$1.25
Reduced from \$2.00
WOOL HOSE 95c
Reduced from \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50

Montgomery & Co.
Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx Clothes
STATE COLLEGE BELLEFONTE