

# 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.....J. W. Selover

## A PENN STATE FATHER'S DAY

Student Council's decision last Tuesday evening regarding the establishment, as a yearly affair, of a "Father's Day" at Penn State should certainly meet with the hearty approval of the entire student body. A number of the fraternities have already instituted such a custom or tried it out with varying degrees of success during the past few years, and in each case the result was a large amount of satisfaction on the part of all concerned. Consequently, from the social aspect alone, it is safe to assume that such a celebration at Penn State would be a pronounced success.

In addition to the very enjoyable period that would be thus provided for both father and son, there would be offered to the former an opportunity to study the college, the conditions under which it is operating and he would then be able to return home with a fuller conception of the fundamentals which the institution has as its framework for the education of the young of the state. Such a survey from a father, after a sojourn at Penn State that has made him enthusiastic over the college and what it should be and do, would carry quite a sentiment among acquaintances and legislators, and so, in the final analysis, there would be a great amount of good come to the college.

It is a very fine plan and finer yet is the intention to begin it this spring. The relationships that do and unquestionably should exist between fathers and sons are the kind that make the latter into men of character, self-reliance and strength and we should greet with pleasure this opportunity to enlarge upon the scope of such a relationship.

## THE STATUS OF DEBATING

The very meagreness of the audiences which attended the two intercollegiate debates held here recently, impels the COLLEGIAN to ask, "What is the status of debating among the student activities at this college and what should it be?"

That the student body has been very uncomplimentary in its non-attendance is only too true. Consider the outline of a debater's task. He is usually one of a small group that responds to the call for candidates to uphold the forensic honors of the college. A question of national or international importance, which should be of vital interest to every wide-awake American is chosen, and a schedule of meets with other colleges arranged. The candidates for the squad commence active preparations months ahead of the time set for the initial contests. They work, and work hard. There are few activities that require such minute care, such tireless labor, such a sacrifice of time and such an extent of brain power used in preparation as does debating. And what is the reward from the student standpoint? A mere handful attends the discussion and this characterizes the whole season. Yet, notwithstanding such non-support, Penn State debating teams year after year have been winning a gratifying number of contests engaged in, adding further to the glory of the institution.

Without question of doubt there should be more interest manifested by the students along this line of activity. Attendance at occasions where this term of collegiate activity is the attraction, is, to some extent at least, as essential to a well rounded college career as attendance at athletic contests. College students, especially those who attend institutions away from the centers of large population, are living in comparative seclusion from the lives and problems of the nation at large. Debates offer them the opportunity of deriving information on the questions that are confronting the country and its leaders. College spirit does not end on the athletic field. It should show itself in the class room, on the campus, and in the non-athletic phases of college life as well, as debating. If it means anything at all to us, we should endeavor to give it at all times our undivided support.

Conduct certainly is not improving in all directions as has been hoped. Other cases that require disciplining have arisen. One in particular is that infringement of gentlemanliness and propriety that has continually occurred at the entertainments that have been given by the Y. M. C. A. Will some students never learn to grow out of the rowdy stage? Will some never learn what the real type of Penn State man is?

The Y. M. C. A. is to be commended on their endeavors to entertain the students on Saturday evenings in the Old Chapel, entertainment that is absolutely without charge to the students and so it is assumed that the students should reciprocate and give in return gentlemanliness of conduct. As has been stated time and again, although desparingly so, there is no room at this college for anyone who is not a gentleman. Get that word and make it a slogan. Penn State, first, last and always a place for none but gentlemen.

**U. S. ARMY TO CONDUCT OFFICERS' EXAMINATIONS**  
The Department of Military Science and Tactics recently received a circular from the War Department at Washington, announcing examinations that are to be conducted in the near future to fill vacancies in the regular army of this country, which may be of interest to some Penn State students. Approximately 2600 second lieutenancies in every branch of the army are to be filled by means of competitive examinations that will be conducted in various parts of the United States and its territories on April-twenty-fifth. The various kinds of army service in which positions are open in these examinations include the infantry, cavalry, field and coast artillery, engineers, air service, signal corps, quartermaster corps, ordnance department and chemical warfare service. All the vacancies now existing in the army will not be filled by means of these examinations, but as many as it is deemed expedient at the present time to provide for.

## SUMMER CAMP MEN PLAN

**TO ORGANIZE NEW CLUB**  
At a meeting held in the Orderly Room of the Armory on Tuesday evening, plans for the formation of a training camp club were discussed. Membership in the new organization will be open to all who have attended any R. O. T. C. summer camp. The object of the club is along social lines and for the promotion of interest among the students in the advanced officer training course.

Another meeting is to be held on next Tuesday evening at seven o'clock in the Sigma Pi house where further steps toward organization will take place. As soon as definite plans can be made, a smoker and dance will be held under the auspices of the club. All camp men are urged to be present at the meeting as matters of interest to them will be dealt with.

## GRADUATE OPPOSED TO HONOR SYSTEM

To the Editor of the Collegian:—

The recent discussion of the Honor System, and, more particularly, the fine dissertation of Professor "Davy" Crockett on that subject leads me to add a few words by way of emphasis, if any is needed, to what has already been said.

During my undergraduate days I observed the workings of rather the "dillings" of the Honor System with much concern. I think, there was no one in the entire school who did not realize that there was something wrong with it—and something vital.

It is only the dishonest man who suspects his fellow man of dishonesty before absolute proof of his dishonesty is brought to his face. As Professor Crockett says, it is only the "prig" or the "ass" who will ask a fellow student to quit cheating and who will report a classmate for cheating. And may I add that it is only the luncheon who will continue to cheat after he has once been warned—a fellow who is sharp enough to try to get away with something crooked in too sharp for that.

In my opinion, and I sincerely hope that three-fourths of two-thirds of the student body agree with me, the worthy Editors of the Collegian have arrived at the gist of the matter. If a man is honest he needs no system to keep him honest and if he is dishonest no system will make him honest unless it is systematic ostracism from the society of honest men which may or may not, according to the degree of his degeneration, create in him a desire to better himself and rise to a higher plane of honesty.

The only "system" of honor that the student body of the Pennsylvania State College needs is that of example. Let each honest student (and there are many) so conduct himself as to be an example to his weaker brother instead of having an Honor System, throwing all the burden on it and blaming it for all dishonesty, let it be abolished and then there will be only one to blame and that will be each one who is dishonest. Instead of trying to convince the student that he is responsible for the workings of the Honor System, expend an equal amount of energy in convincing him that he is individually responsible for his own honor and, by his example, the honor of the entire student body which is synonymous to the honor of the Pennsylvania State College.

Sincerely yours,  
CALVIN W. MOORE '20

## PLAYERS HOLD TRIALS FOR NEXT PRODUCTION

Preliminary trials for the cast of "The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife" the play which will be offered by the Penn State Players some time in early April, were held in Old Main last Tuesday evening and judging from the large number of candidates who answered the initial call, little difficulty should be experienced in selecting an able cast. Additional trials will be held in the near future when a further process of elimination will be carried out. The play is a farce from the pen of

Anatole France and it is by far the best comedy that world will hereafter famous playwright has ever produced. It is especially well adapted for production by such an organization as the Penn State Players for little scenery is required while the action is fast and extremely amusing and is of the kind that will appeal to a college audience. Mr. Arthur Croeltingh, of the Department of English, who had charge of the production of "Seven Keys to Baldpate," will assume the direction of the forthcoming play as soon as the cast has been definitely selected. Rehearsals will be held every evening up until the evening of the presentation.

## OUTLAWS OF PLANT WORLD DISCUSSED BY PROF. KERN

The yeags, robbers, and other criminals of the plant world hereafter hide in vain from prying eyes since their darkest secrets were laid bare last Tuesday evening by Professor F. D. Kern, one of the leading detectives of the Botany Department in the third of the second semester Tuesday evening lectures. Their cunning methods of thieving and their ways of disguising themselves from view were all discussed and illustrated by a series of lantern slides.

Professor Kern started his lecture with a word concerning the lack of attention that these plant criminals receive. "And yet," he said, "if the papers were to publish an account to the effect that a foreign power had stolen thousands of bushels of our wheat, everyone would be very much excited. But this is exactly what plant parasites are doing every year!"

The set of lantern-slides, which followed Professor Kern's opening remarks showed how these three criminals of the plant world conceal themselves and their work of destruction. Professor Kern spoke of the cedar and apple parasite as an example of the parasite which attacks two different kinds of plants and thus presents a complicated life cycle. In addition to this parasite, many of the diseases which attack the potato, wheat, fruits, and trees were shown.

The lecture concluded his talk with a film of moving pictures, furnished by the Department of Agriculture, to educate farmers about the barberry and wheat rust, which comes from the barberry shrub. Professor urged the people to pull out and kill all the barberry bushes, for, without them, there will be no more destructive wheat rust that causes so much damage to the wheat crop every year.

## PUBLICITY OFFICE WANTS COUNTY CLUB INFORMATION

The Publicity Office announces that there are several county clubs whose pictures have not been identified. As these pictures are to be printed in the home papers, those clubs which have not identified their photograph are requested to do so as soon as possible at the Publicity Office on the first floor of Old Main. The clubs concerned are the following Blair, Fayette, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Chester, and the Harrisburg club.

The Office also announces that all county clubs intending to hold dances, parties, or similar events during the coming vacation and wishing to have notices put in the home papers should notify the Publicity Office in the near future.

## Stiff Competition In Thespian Trials

The chorus for the first Thespian production of the 1921 season has been practically selected after a week of trials and arrangements are rapidly moving completion for the theatrical offering to be presented to the student body as soon as possible after Easter recess. Thespian rehearsals are being held regularly in Old Chapel and, now that the chorus has been decided upon, progress will mark the work of each week.

At a meeting of the organization held last Thursday night, it was decided to secure professional costumes from Pittsburgh so as to let nothing go undone to insure the best. At the same time, the purchase of a new back curtain was approved. It was thought to the attention of all present that more interest is being taken this year by members of the student body in Thespian activities than has ever been shown before as proved by the fact that over three hundred tried out for positions on the chorus and among these there were discovered persons possessing remarkable talent. It was said that the wealth of material was great enough to furnish talent for three such productions. As soon as the cast is definitely picked, it is planned to hold some sort of a social event in honor of those who were successful in the trials. This will most likely be a dance or a banquet.

There is an ever increasing degree of expectancy all over the campus as the date of the announcement of the name of the Thespian offering for this year draws near. The organization has not as yet divulged the title of the play, as the parts and songs are not yet complete, and it is thought best to wait until conditions warrant. However, it has been announced that the musical comedy will be of the same type as a number of American productions, such as "Hitchy Koo." This play is still meeting with great success on the professional stage, and several years ago it was produced at Penn State, making a big hit. There is no reason, then, why the coming Thespian production, being of the same general character, should not be a huge success, especially with the introduction of a distinctly Penn State atmosphere by means of original parts and lyrics composed recently by members of the student and faculty bodies.

## SIRLOIN MEMBERS HEAR TWO INTERESTING TALKS

The Sirloin Club held a very interesting and educational meeting last Tuesday evening in the Agricultural Building. The evening's program consisted of several lively discussions on the progress of the club and plans for the future, besides two good talks. A noticeable feature of the meeting was the large number which attended and the keen interest that was exhibited.

among the members in upbuilding and keeping the club on a high plane. The plans for a mock stock sale to be held not later than the third Saturday in April were brought up for consideration, and many suggestions were given as to how the students can derive the most benefit from such an affair. It will be remembered that a very successful sale of this kind was conducted by the club last spring.

The main part of the program was given over to "Pill" Council, the college sheep extension representative and "Pete" McKenzie, the college herdman. The former lectured on the annual husbandry industry, pointing out its many good features, while the latter talked on sheep pedigrees of the various breeds. He traced the leading sheep families and breeds and showed why they were successful. He also gave a very interesting life history of Tom Daboume, who is the leading authority on Shropshire sheep in America today. Both speakers were voted honorary members of the Sirloin Club, as also was Joe Robinson.

## WOMAN'S CLUB TO HEAR LECTURE ON PILGRIMS

The State College Woman's Club is planning a very interesting meeting to be held in the Presbyterian Church next Tuesday evening, when an illustrated lecture on "The Pathway of the Pilgrims" will be presented by the History section of the organization. The subject is one which should appeal to every American, and all members are urged to be present to learn, through ear and eye, something of this portion of our national history. Aside from the lecture, there will be the important procedure of electing officers, and a straw vote will be taken among the members to determine whether the dues of the club should be raised.

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