

Penn State Collegian

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News Editor this Issue: E. E. Helm

THE MUSIC CONVENTION

The college and town is being given a rare privilege in playing the role of hosts to the members of the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs, who are holding their annual state convention here during this week. For the first time, the convention is being held elsewhere than at Philadelphia or Pittsburgh. Over two hundred are expected to attend the convention, among whom will be several who have attained no little recognition in the musical world. Also, it happens that the biennial contest for young artists will be conducted to select those who will represent the state at the national convention in June.

But it is a question in the minds of those who realize the honor thus conferred upon State College if the students, faculty, and townspeople will take advantage of the concerts that will be given during the course of the week. Artists of renown from the larger cities of the East will appear on the concert stage, among whom might be mentioned Madame Samaroff and Madame Sylva. Besides these, such names as those of Mrs. T. M. Cox of Harrisburg, Mrs. E. S. Hasler of Grove City, and Mrs. Galen Gates will be recognized.

There are five concerts to be given, two of which will be in the nature of recitals. The concerts are free to the public and are well recommended to those who enjoy music. Admission will be charged for the recitals, one to be given by Madame Samaroff and one by Madame Sylva, both of whom are coming to the convention at considerable expense to the Federation.

The concert that is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon will be given by the State Club Artists. These come from various cities of the state and belong to a music club of the Pennsylvania Federation. Many times they have appeared on the concert platform and have never failed to be awarded with enthusiastic applause. A word to the wise is sufficient and he who has the time will not waste it by attending any of the entertainments which have been planned.

THE APPROPRIATION

The recommendations made by the Council of Education to the Governor and to the Legislature concerning the financial needs of the institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth have recently been announced. The citizenry of the state, no doubt, will be pleased with the dispatch used by the Council in considering a question which is of such importance to the future of the state. The policy itself is a matter far too large and important to be settled satisfactorily in the course of a week or so. But circumstances demand immediate action, and this has been accorded the matter.

Due to the fact that the Council was pressed for time, and subject to the exigencies of the period, it is but natural that the recommendations would not meet with hearty approval by all parties. As far as Penn State is concerned, there are a few points which should be brought to the attention of every friend of the college and which are embodied in these recommendations.

The Council has seen fit to treat all institutions on the basis of the last appropriation, which is hardly correct and fair in view of the specific relationship between this institution and the state.

The amount allotted to Penn State is a reduction of one million dollars of the appropriation recommended by the Board of Trustees as that needed to maintain the standard of the college without providing for any advancement. In view of the policy of economy of the new administration, it would appear that the cause of higher education is made to suffer for the disorder of the finances of the state.

Thus it is unusually difficult to conciliate the recommendation of the Council with the wish expressed for "each and all of the institutions having a relationship to the state to continue to promote the cause of higher education". How can Pennsylvania hope to educate its sons and daughters so that they can compete successfully with those of other states when it persists in neglecting its institutions? Penn State, which above all others has a right to claim the interest and support of every state administration, has repeatedly been forgotten to a large extent.

Those who have attempted to keep well informed on this question of higher education in the Keystone State will be amazed to again find a reference made in the report of the Council to the old and discarded Finnegan plan of combining the three major institutions, Pitt, Penn, and Penn State. Without doubt, voices have been heard in all parts of the state opposing this plan and apparently it had died an ignoble death two or three years ago, only to be resurrected on special occasions. May it rest peacefully from now on.

But, considering the work as a whole, there are many interests who are pleased to see the program advanced as far as it has. It remains for the Legislature and the Governor to keep faith with Penn State to which Pennsylvania is pledged.

DON'T BE BACKWARD

A word of advice for those who are musically inclined has been received from the chairman of the Music Section of the Woman's Club of State College to the effect that students, faculty members, or townspeople, who play some instrument should not hesitate to enter the contest for young artists that is being held at the Music Convention this week.

From this contest will be selected those to represent the state at the national convention at Asheville, North Carolina, in June. Delegations are coming from various cities and towns of the state to compete for the honor, but this is no indication that there are none here at State College able to compete successfully.

The contest for violinists will be held tomorrow morning at nine-thirty o'clock and that for vocalists will be held at the same hour on Thursday morning. Students are urged to use their off hours in attending the concerts in the afternoons and possible contestants are reminded of the fact that but a short time is needed to participate in the contest.

A SUGGESTION

It is a generally accepted belief that certain incalculable benefits are derived from the spirited competition which is usually experienced by him who tries out for some managerial position or a sports' reward, even though he is dropped by the wayside in the final elections or when the first team has been picked. Contact with fellow students is not to be lightly considered in summing up the benefits that a person gains in life on a college or university campus, and it has often been pointed out by the seers of the age that, in rubbing elbows or in bumping heads with others of his tribe who are competing for the same coveted laurels, the young man gains a vision of greater scope, thereby losing much of his egotism. In fact, they claim in no uncertain terms that he becomes a better citizen.

These are cold facts, the truth of which has been proved time and again. But it can not be denied that there is the tinge of remorse, always accompanying a disappointing election. He who has worked for three long years and has left no opportunity to perform his duty pass unnoticed may be forgotten, except in a few cases. It has been the custom in some sports to award a letter to the "scrub" who has reported faithfully for three years of service. In the major sports, the disappointed first assistant managers are given other secondary managerhips as a reward for service performed. But no effort has been made to thank the managers in the minor sports for their work. In the final showdown, some must lose. Not all can be managers or letter men. What, then, of the men who are dropped? It seems only fitting and proper that some material provision should be made for the unfortunates, oft-times the victims of circumstance. A sub-letter might not be amiss, or class numerals would at least serve as a token of appreciation and would act as an incentive for students to enter competition in their freshman or sophomore years.

Thoughts of Others

UNFAIR PUBLICITY (Purdue Exponent)

Desire for publicity may be more or less new in the history of the human people but it has become so nearly universal that it is taken for granted. In fact it has become almost impossible for any individual or enterprise to gain headway without calling attention of the public to it, and it is also equally impossible for them to accomplish anything unusual or spectacular and at the same time avoid publicity. So sooner or later those individuals or those institutions which stand out from the ordinary, either worse or better, are destined to come under the gaze of the public eye. Favorable publicity is much to be desired, although some are so eager to claim the limelight that they are willing to let their name be dragged through the mire just to get their name on every tongue. At times the medium for publicity is prejudiced and unfair publicity is given.

There is nothing in America today that deserves to be brought before the public in a fair way more than its colleges and universities. They have proved to be a favorite and fruitful field for the joker, the short story writer, and even the yellow journalist in which to find subjects for their articles. It is easy to see things on the college campus that will furnish more or less sensational news if interpreted in the wrong light. It is a trait of college students to make irresponsible statements with radical tendencies. They are decidedly open and frank, saying what they think. Such statements provoke little thought either on the part of those uttering them or on the hearers, but when they appear in print they are regarded in an entirely different light by the public.

It is very common for metropolitan dailies of the present time to run articles relating to college affairs and thus give them publicity, but are their write-ups always fair to the university in question? Is it typical of the institutions or has the writer singled out a few of the misguided students of the school and quoted them as representing the entire body? For example, in a recent issue of one of the country's greatest dailies was a small article on the front page headed by the quotation of some men students at the University of Wisconsin to the effect that college women were unfit for wives. What could be more unfair to the women of Wisconsin? It is more than a safe bet that the men of Wisconsin do not think that way. We are of the opinion that the male students there are as fond of the opposite sex as they are in other institutions, and there is no general boycott of college women as desirable mates in other places. There may be a few here and there that think that college graduates will make a poor wife, but it by no means can be taken as typical of the whole school by the statement of the few.

It was simply an opportunity to get something in the paper which would be read, regardless of the good or harm to the school. In the same issue

was a squib about one of the best athletes of the Conference, which by the way was a Purdue man, and brought nothing but the best kind of publicity to our institution. It is easy to see why the dailies like to run sensational and unusual news but why not eliminate that which may hurt a college or university?

Penn State Prexy

DR. GEORGE W. ATHERTON

With the death of Dr. Pugh, a few years after the founding of the college, came a period of change and experiment with little or no progress. Five men held the presidency during those years, each serving for a short time. The streets of State College, Allen, Frazier, Burrows, Coulter, and Shortridge are named for these men in the order of their service.

In the summer of 1882, Dr. George W. Atherton accepted the presidency, bringing a new era to the harassed college. At that time Penn State was at its lowest ebb. The enrollment had dwindled to thirty-three students, less than the number that were here under Dr. Pugh in the first years of the college, the curriculum was limited to three general and four technical courses and but two buildings, Old Main and the Mechanics Arts Building, had been erected. The new Prexy devoted all of his efforts to the rebuilding of the school with the result that at the end of his twenty-three years of service, the enrollment had jumped to twelve hundred students, thirty buildings occupied the campus and the scope of the college had been increased to cover nineteen courses. This remarkable achievement stamps Dr. Atherton as the greatest Prexy in Penn State's history and he will always be remembered as the man responsible for the rebuilding of this institution.

Dr. Atherton was born in Duxford, Massachusetts, in 1837. His father died when he was twelve years old but

the boy succeeded in earning his way through Phillips Exeter Academy by working in a cotton mill. He then entered Yale in 1860 and graduating three years later, enlisted and served through the Civil War.

Following the war, Dr. Atherton entered the teaching profession and worked his way up through various positions until in 1869 he was offered the professorship in History at Rutgers College. For the next fourteen years he occupied that chair firmly establishing the new department at that college. In the summer of 1882 came the offer to take the presidency of the Pennsylvania State College. During his many years of service, Dr. Atherton put his soul into his work and ten years after his inauguration saw a complete change in the sentiment of the people toward Penn State. Liberal appropriations from the State, and an era of expansion before the college.

In the spring of 1906, Dr. Atherton returned from a trip to California that he had taken in the interest of his health. The next few months saw a steady decline until his death on July twentieth. In the shadow of the Auditorium he was buried with simple and impressive ceremonies. Dr. Atherton will always be remembered as a scholar, organizer, diplomat, and gentleman and as a Prexy who raised Penn State from a veritable reform school to a college of first rank.

Essay Written On Penn State Spirit

After considering more than a thousand essays on "Penn State Spirit" written by members of the freshman class during the recent Spirit Week campaign, the Student Council, working in conjunction with the Department of English, has given first honors to W. C. Leslie.

The Penn State Spirit should foster within us a desire to see our Alma Mater respected wherever her name is heard. There are many things which enhance the reputation of a college such as good sportsmanship, loyalty, and democratic ideals or customs, but in the long run a college is judged by the intellectual standards of its students. Therefore, if those interested in Penn State, and I mean not only the students but instructors as well, would see her stand foremost among the colleges of the land, they should strive to raise the intellectual quality of the students sent forth to take their places in the life of our State. This quality of scholarship can be realized by the co-operation of the student body and faculty. In the first place, each student should put forth an honest effort to follow the directions of the instructors, thus doing his own part in enriching his mind.

and, in the second place, each professor should take pains to make his course plain and understandable to the student in order to facilitate the studying of the student and the grasping of the facts.

The raising of the scholarship standing, in my mind, would be the most effective means of assuring the existence of the Penn State Spirit. It would indirectly raise, also, the moral, personal habits, social relationships, and all those qualities which make good dependable men and women. Therefore, the cherishing and cultivating of the Penn State Spirit will make not only loyal sons of our Alma Mater, but also efficient citizens of our commonwealth. And the people, ultimately will realize the value of Penn State College in the social and industrial life of the state.

Along Sport Lines

COLLEGE GOLFERS IN ENGLAND

The "Big Three", Yale, Harvard, and Princeton, will be each represented in the Walker Cup competition that will be staged in England next month. Jesse Sweeter, the young and brilliant national champion, is the mainstay of the Yale golf team, "Bobby" Jones, recently enrolled at Harvard, and "Ruddy" Knepper is a student at Princeton. This trio of golfers comprises three of the best golfers in amateur ranks and will represent the United States in England if they can be excused from their studies so early in the year.

Last year the British and American amateur golfers met for the first time at the National Links in competition for the Walker Cup which will be competed for each year by a team from these two countries. Last year the encounter resulted in a victory for the Americans by an 8 to 4 score.

The battle will be staged on British soil this year and America will make every effort to gather together a strong aggregation to defend the cup. Robert Gardner, former national champion, will captain the team, and in addition to the three college golfers, Max Marston of Philadelphia, "Chick" Evans, Francis Guilmet and Jesse Guilford, both former amateur champions, Harrison Johnson and Fred Wright will make the trip.

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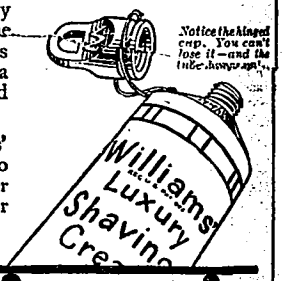
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