

Penn State Collegian

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1923

THE PATH OF PROGRESS

Perfection is far beyond the vision of the most active mind. With no tangible conception of what perfection really is, the progressive individual instinctively moves in directions which he believes are for the general improvement. And so it should be. For progress, the outstanding characteristic of the modern world, follows paths that lead toward that invisible Utopia—perfection.

The college man who cares to think about such matters, sometimes wonders where it is all going to end. He sees each fraternity and club on the campus striving to build a more palatial home; he sees each college function made better from year to year; he sees more and more conveniences introduced for personal comfort and enjoyment. And he wonders what the final outcome will be. It is natural for him to do so. But the wonderful improvements in man-made processes are not to be questioned by mortals.

The modern world demands ideas—those unexplainable thoughts, constructive or inspirational in nature, which take definite shape only after a period of thinking. Ideas alone insure progress, and it is for progress that men should be placed in office. Campus organizations are crowded with individuals who can assume the position of an executive and carry out in a brilliant manner the program that a society has been in the habit of observing, who can steer a group of men in the same groove that has been followed year after year.

Custom and convention are all right in their places, but they should not be allowed to rule just because they are custom and convention. It is no honor to leave conditions the same year after year, even though these conditions are good. It is not enough to merely "carry on". Men of progressive minds should be elected to offices and societies for undergraduate development—men who can conceive and formulate ideas.

THE LION RAMPANT

It is a thoroughly disappointed but, withal, untamed Lion that licks his chops on the Nittany mountains these days. He is disappointed to an unmistakable degree that the toothsome morsel in the form of the Orange gridders was snatched so rudely from his clutches. But he is hungrier and more savage as a result and daily stalks the hillsides impatiently awaiting his coming battles with the Tornado, the Quaker and the Panther, none of which he means to lose as his appetite is becoming hard to appease.

Without making any excuses for the loss of the first football game this season, it may safely be stated that Coach Meehan and his doughty Syracuse warriors might be singing a different song had Penn State not been seriously handicapped by injuries to two of her stars.

But that is a mere incident in the realm of sport, a part of the game, and does not detract in any way from the glory of the Orange victory. It was a mighty battle and a mighty team to which the Lion succumbed. It is hard to acknowledge defeat at any time, but defeat, in itself, is much easier to bear when it comes at the hands of such worthy opponents.

The Lion has been worsted before. Even the most mighty suffer reverses at some time or other. But never for an instant has the dauntless king of the jungles lost any of his prestige or fearsomeness. Nor has his recent taste of bitter defeat at the hands of the Syracuse warriors caused more serious ills than a transient feeling of depression, rapidly being replaced by one of determination for atonement. Well, indeed, may the Tornado flinch in its northward course, the Quaker quake in his boots, the Panther pant in his den,—for the Lion is becoming ravenously hungry.

Every undergraduate, every faculty member, every friend of the college has faith in Coach Bezdek and his assistants and confidence in the team of which they all are proud. Penn State has been worsted, not beaten.

INDIFFERENCE

There is a tendency among upperclassmen at this institution to deplore the ever-increasing indifference of the majority of the students in regard to campus affairs and problems. That such a condition exists is undeniably true. But the reason for its benign existence can be traced directly to the upperclassmen themselves.

It is quite natural for juniors and seniors to associate the dampened spirit and ardor of the student body with the indifference of the underclassmen. On the surface this astute interpretation of the evident decline in spirit seems entirely correct. For it is, in truth, a certainty that the efficiency of campus administration is impeded by the predominance of the two lower classes, the freshmen and sophomores who through sheer weight of numbers, are shaping the dominant tone of college life.

But the fact that their efforts are usually indifferent and ineffectual and misdirected can not be attributed justly to any inherent fault of the underclassmen themselves. They come to college, a place of comparative bewilderment, anxious to become acquainted with the institution and to take part in its activities. They are as clay to be moulded and directed along the proper channels by the positive efforts and influence of the juniors and seniors.

And herein lies the secret of the decline or indications of decline of Penn State spirit. The upperclassmen are falling down on the job; they are not fulfilling the trust imposed in them by their predecessors from the halls of Old Main. It is easy enough to fasten the blame on lowly freshmen and indifferent sophomores. But it is not just. Nor is it conducive to better results.

Let those upperclassmen bemoaning the fate of the old-time Penn State spirit begin in their own ranks by arousing their lethargic classmates to the importance of setting an example through correcting their own indifference to campus affairs.

Letter Box

Editor-in-Chief, Penn State Collegian.

Dear Sir:

In these modern days when "pep" and "punch" are common qualities, there is one institution at Penn State that is lacking in these qualities. I refer to the chess yells.

It would appear that there are styles in yells just as there are styles in clothes and the trend of present day chess yells seems to be away from the pop-producers that were in vogue a few years ago.

The truth of this statement was clearly shown at the alumni smoker in the Armory after the Navy game. Small groups of alumni from aged veterans of the nineties to the younger grades who were students but a few years ago, gathered together and gave their chess yells. These groups as a rule were small but much noise was produced for almost without exception they were of the rickety-rack, hiss-boom-ah-oo variety.

Compare these with the cheers of the present classes. The juniors rally to the slogan "For Blue and White we'll ever strive, Penn State twenty-five!" The sophomores yell is "O Alma Mater we'll ever stick, Penn State twenty-six!" Freshmen gather to the call of "Old Penn State will win the race when twenty-seven sets the pace."

All of these yells express admirable sentiments and ones which should be heartily endorsed by every loyal Penn State student. But to my mind they fall short of the primary purpose of a yell and that is to produce noise and "pep."

As a last word I would like to suggest that those sophomores to whom will be entrusted the task of organizing the freshman class next year, see to it that the yearlings begin their college careers with a class yell that is a yell and not a sonnet.

A STUDENT

Thoughts of Others

THE CHAPERON (OREGON EMERALD)

There is periodically in every community a growth of popular misconception of the chaperon idea. Chaperonage is not an implication of lack of trust in the fine instincts of youth. It is not intended to protect the young woman from her escort, but to check against conduct unbecoming to ladies and gentlemen. In this misconception were true, the ideal chaperon would wear a blue uniform and a star.

Chaperonage is not an institution imposed upon one or two isolated university communities to be abolished from the face of the earth by fiat. It has grown up and endured through hundreds of years to fill a need of cultured society. It has been modified from generation to generation to fit changing needs, taking on a broader and more lenient form as each succeeding generation of young men and women has proved itself more self-reliant. It still fulfills its original functions in spite of the modifications in manifestation. These functions I take to be, first—protection in emergency. An older person by virtue of the dignity and good judgment gained by experi-

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STUDENT FELLOWSHIP WILL PRESENT OPERAS

Metropolitan Stars Will Appear in "I Pagliacci" and An American Ballet

Under the auspices of the Student Fellowship of the Y. M. C. A., Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci", one of the world's most famous short operas and "An Hour Before the Cock Crows", a New American ballet will be given in the Auditorium on Saturday, November twenty-four at 8.15 p. m.

C. M. Smink '26 has charge of bringing this production, which is under the management of Kingsberry Foster, to Penn State. The opera is very popular, having been produced by both the Metropolitan and Chicago Opera Companies, and the present production contains some of the new young American stars who have been doing things this past season. Marie Stagg, who will sing the leading soprano part, is from the Municipal Opera of Cincinnati, while the other members come from the Metropolitan Opera of Baltimore, the Metropolitan Opera of Chicago and other great musical organizations.

The settings were devised by Roth and Tichener who have designed sets for the "Musical Box Review", with stage management by Macdonald who was general manager of the Boston Opera Company for five years. The orchestra will be composed of New York symphony musicians engaged for the tour.

Added to this is the New American Ballet, "An Hour Before the Cock Crows", which is constructed along the lines of the Pavlova pantomimic dances and divertissement. The cast of this production contains some of the best dancing girls from the Follies in addition to Helen Hayes, premier danseuse of the Chicago Opera Company.

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Gridiron Gossip

The first defeat of the season is always a bitter pill but let's look forward to the come-back that the Nittany Lion will stage in its remaining games.

Some Syracuse studs remarked that this Wilson must be a popular guy because there were about six or seven Orange players hanging around him all the time.

"Chick" Meehan has a gang of grid-ers that should go through the season without a mark against their record. In McBride, Coach Meehan has one of the best backs in collegiate circles.

Penn students now believe the proverb "Every thing comes to those that wait." They waited for eight years to see a game like Saturday's Penn-Pitt encounter.

"Can't win 'em all", some Pitt rooter said after the game of course not, but they can at least win a majority of them.

"Mike" Palm walked in the Auditorium just as Syracuse made their triumphant march goalward and someone yelled out "Put Mike in."

West Virginia again invades New York when they meet Rutgers today at the Polo Grounds in an Election Day battle.

We can get a little consolation in the fact that Penn State was not the only undefeated team to sustain a licking. Dartmouth was upset by Cornell by a 32-7 count.

Over two thousand male students are commencing to polish up on Spalding's football rules in order to be able to acquaint their H. P. Q's with Walter Camp's great game on Saturday.

Which reminds us that our Pennsylvania Dvy opponent, Georgia Tech, was held to a scoreless tie by Alabama on Saturday. Alabama was valloped by Syracuse earlier in the season.

Someone asked Bill House when he

got off the bus Sunday afternoon if he had seen in the battle of the Marne. The big guard's face looked the part.

Carnegie Tech lost to Lehigh Saturday but the Plaid supporters don't care if they lose all the remaining games on their schedule. The reason is self-evident—they've already beaten Pitt.

Will somebody please pass the Sinn-Fainers. Those fighting Irishmen from Notre Dame haven't been stopped yet. Purdue being their most recent victims.

Just imagine "Bill" Wood going up to "Joe" Lightner after the Gettysburg-Dickinson game on Saturday and saying "Sorry, old man, I'd rather it would have been my team." Yes, just imagine.

Waldorf-Starobin sounds like a hotel but it happens to be the names of the two Syracuse tackles who broke up more Penn State plays, per square foot than any others in the Orange line.

The Yale Bull dog routed Uncle Sam's future generals on Saturday at New Haven while the same Uncle Sammy's future admiral was taking the measure of Dick Harlow's Colgate eleven down in Annapolis.

Atlantic City is making a strong bid for the Army-Navy game next year. Folwyl's crew is perfectly satisfied because they're right at home near the water.

And then an Ag wants to know if Thanksgiving Day is a legal holiday just because Pitt and Penn State play at that time.

FACULTY MEMBERS ARE GIVEN SABBATICAL LEAVE

The board of trustees of Penn State has voted to grant sabbatical leave of absence to members of the faculty beginning this year. This leave means that a faculty member teaches six years and can have the seventh or "sabbath" year off. Many of the colleges and universities of the country have already adopted this system, it being so current a topic as to be considered for discussion at the national convention of the American Association of University Professors.

CALIFORNIA STUDENTS INITIATE UNIQUE FUND

In order that the many benefit and charity drives that are frequently made on the campus might be done away with, the student body of the University of California has organized a "Community Chest." This will be a sum of money raised by subscription among the students and faculty, that will meet all benefits that the students might be expected to meet. This consolidation of all campus drives for charitable purposes is intended to do away with the individuals having to meet each benefit as it comes.

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