

Penn State Collegian

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The Penn State Collegian invites communications on any subject of college interest. Letters must bear the signatures of the writers. All copy for Tuesday's issue must be in the office by noon on Monday, and for Friday's issue, by noon Thursday.

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News Editor this issue J. H. LUNN

PROMISCUOUS CURSING

It is not within the province of an individual or group of individuals to curtail the personal rights and privileges of any man, unless it be with just cause or for common good. But it is the privilege of any unbiased independent to offer suggestions in the way of constructive criticism that may affect the most personal habits of mankind.

It is in this connection that attention is called to the prevailing habit of promiscuous cursing evidenced in every-day life on the campus. Swearing is a staple in conversation, and the sad fact is that "damn" has degenerated into a synonym for "very."

Bothered by none of the strictly Puritanical beliefs on the terrifying awe of invoking a divine curse or of using devil-devised word corruptions, the typical college student goes on his way with never a thought of the first commandment, a two-phrased, "heli" and "damn" amateur, blurring forth conjurations perforce of habit. It is in no wise his intention to damn eternally the victims of his common oaths, nor is it likely that he himself will be subjected to future punishment for unpremeditated violations of the Biblical commandment. The "run off at the mouth" fellow is an unthinking individual, one whose two-phrased expressions in every sentence betoken a limited or dwarfed vocabulary.

But it is not the purpose of this article to deal with the religious side of the question. That is for the theologians and Puritans to discuss. It is simply an expression in the form of a protest against the habit of promiscuous cursing which cheapens and dishonors the practice. Swearing should be eliminated, it should be conserved. The gentle art of cursing should be revived. For artistic swearing is a thing of beauty.

Even a fanatic on religious matters must concede that there is something peculiarly satisfying in a strong round "damn," coming at the right time for psychological effect. It has the emphasis of a right uppeercut. It is an oath referential and is an echo to the sense. By conservation of expletives, swearing can be made a matter of artistry and emphasis. Then and only then will it be respected. There is no meaning in the common use of cuss words.

SUPPORT THE RETURNS

A request comes from the college authorities and those members of the student body in charge of arrangements for the football returns at Penn State, that this endeavor for the enlightenment of stay-at-homes in the progress of games on foreign fields be given more material support. It is a just request and warrants earnest consideration on the part of the undergraduates.

Events of a nature not altogether in accord with the spirit of Penn State sportsmanship have occasioned this solicitation. During the progress of the Syracuse game two weeks ago, when returns were being received and given out in the Auditorium, it was noted, much to the disappointment of loyal supporters of the Nittany team, that there was not a representative gathering of undergraduates present to lend their moral support and show their interest in the game. This fact was deplored by those individuals in attendance from a standpoint of disinterestedness. It was, in truth, a situation to be deplored, but the majority of the undergraduates entertained the wrong version of the matter.

It was not so much a case of waning interest in the fortunes of the football team abroad as it was a case of reluctance to part with the price of admission to hear the returns. With more than half of the available space inside the Auditorium vacant, a large number of students, hesitating to go down in their jeans for the necessary tax per capita, gathered on the outside, crowded the doorways, hovered on the outskirts, and made themselves a general nuisance. Some of the more agile ones even ventured to climb upon the window sills in an effort to see and hear.

And it is to the last-mentioned violation of gentlemanly conduct that the college authorities object. They have threatened on several occasions to refuse the use of the Auditorium for receiving returns unless more restraint and common sense observances are practiced. It is not the wish of any individual or group of individuals to occasion such action, nor is it the desire of the college authorities to enforce it unless necessary.

Perhaps it is good sport to climb upon window sills and crowd doorways, but it is not good sportsmanship in this connection. The price of admission is not too much. It is necessary to cover the expense of receiving the returns.

ABUSED POSITIONS

It is generally conceded that upperclassmen, particularly seniors, are in a position to render advice of a helpful nature to incoming freshmen since they have been through the ropes and are, perforce, more experienced. It is a reasonable contention, for upperclassmen do assist materially in helping the newcomers to become acclimated. But the senior advisory position is not to be abused.

Too often the upperclassman in college assumes the role of a cynic in order to sufficiently impress his importance upon the younger students. He thinks his "man of the world" outlook upon life—which is in large part disguise—gives him a higher place in the estimation of the less experienced student.

In this connection, he seems to derive an unusual amount of pleasure from an indiscriminate smashing of ideals which a freshman has brought with him from home. "Rendering him more sophisticated" is the term applied to the smashing process.

Sooner or later some of his ideals are sure to be broken, but there is no occasion for hastening the day. It will mean much more to him to discover that they are broken than to have them rudely and indiscriminately smashed by some cynical upperclassman.

Tribute Paid To Dr. H. F. Stecker

In order to give expression to the distinct sense of professional loss which the college has suffered in the passing of Dr. H. F. Stecker, the School of Liberal Arts has adopted a memorial tribute to his worth and work.

The following minute was composed by a committee consisting of Professor C. W. Runkle, chairman, Professor J. H. Tudor and Professor L. V. T. Simmons.

"Dr. Henry Freeman Stecker was born at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, June 13, 1867, and died in the Mercy Hospital at Baltimore, October twenty-ninth, 1923. He entered the University of Wisconsin in 1889, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1893, Master of Science in 1894, and Doctor of Philosophy in 1897. He was also fellow in mathematics 1897 to 1898, and honorary fellow in 1897.

"During the academic year 1906-1907, he studied at the Universities of Göttingen and Berlin, etc., also, spent the summers of 1911 and 1912 in Paris attending lectures on mathematics, and on the latter occasion participated in the meeting at Cambridge, England, of the International Congress of Mathematicians.

"His career as a teacher began in his undergraduate days, as assistant in mathematics 1890 to 1895. He served at Northwestern University from 1897 to 1900, and after his year of study abroad was called to Cornell University as instructor in mathematics where he remained until 1901. In the fall of that year, he was elected to an instructorship at the Pennsylvania State College, and by zeal and devotion to his profession rose in academic rank and preference to a full professorship in mathematics.

"Dr. Stecker was a member of Sigma Xi and of the following professional associations: American Mathematical Society, London Mathematical Society, Societe Mathematique De France, Mathematischer Verein, and Circolo Matematico Di Palermo. By his professional peers, Dr. Stecker was ranked as among the leading mathematical scholars of his time. His principal researches were in pure mathematics, analytic lines, Non-Euclidean geometries, foundations of geometry, line geometry, and integral equations.

"As we, his colleagues, think of Dr. Stecker, the quality uppermost in his twenty years of service at the Pennsylvania State College was the combination in a rare degree of scholar and teacher. He evinced of himself the highest standard of thoroughness and mastery, and he expected and received in a marked way like response from his students. Rightly intolerant of sham anywhere, he has contributed his part to our Penn State spirit of honest, consistent work in the tasks of each day. A certain temperamental reserve and dignity of demeanor in his relations rendered all the more significant that deeper spirit of helpfulness and friendly cooperation which so many students and teachers have shared with him. He always stood for high standards of scholarship and moral conduct.

"Thoroughness, the discipline of mastering difficulties, the desire of intellectual work fairly possessed him.

"With all this, Dr. Stecker valued the amenities of life as well as its severe science, and his study of art, to choose one example, bore fruit in the community. It is no mere accident that his most intimate contact for many years with college athletics was with those who strove in the closest hand to hand encounters in boxing and wrestling. His whole career as student and teacher, even his heroic attitude in fatal illness reveal a personality which loved the struggle of life, and which valued a man who strove with and conquered all difficulties with a brave heart and an earnest soul.

"We, his colleagues of the School of the Liberal Arts, point with just pride to Dr. Stecker's twenty years of faithful service for Penn State, to his professional zeal which made him so widely known as a mathematician, and to his qualities as a man, whose thoroughness, faithfulness and honest toil are now a part of our college heritage."

Facts and Figures

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

A division of the college of which little is known by the student body at large is the department of Geology and Mineralogy of the School of Mining. Although geology and mineralogy have been taught since Penn State was known as the "Farmers' High School," the subjects did not form a separate department until 1908.

The division of geology is supervised by the head of the department, Professor C. A. Bonine and the mineralogy division is headed by Assistant Professor A. J. Hones. Three instructors complete the staff. Although the number of graduates in the courses offered by the department averages only five each year, over four hundred students from other schools of the college receive instruction.

In regard to the study of geology Professor Bonine is reported as stating: "As far as location is concerned, State College offers exceptional advantages for almost all of the studies of the subject. Though we have well equipped laboratories for blow-pipe tests and research work, our most valuable asset is the Nittany Valley."

In addition to the regular work in the classrooms, the staff performs a valuable service to the people of the state in determining the value of rock samples and ores which are continually sent to the school. Several cases

have been reported where considerable losses have been prevented through this service.

For the study of descriptive mineralogy, the department maintains a working collection of five thousand minerals and a like number of rock samples, two thousand crystals and artificial models and a Goldschmidt goniometer, one of the finest in the country, aid in the study of crystallography. Perhaps the most prized apparatus in the department is a set of the famous Kranz rock collections, consisting of four thousand hand specimens with sections of the rock ground to a thickness of three-hundredths of a millimeter, which are used in conjunction with the ten petrographic microscopes of the department in the study of rock structure. A museum collection of seven hundred prepared mineral specimens, housed in the New Mining Building, completes the equipment used by the department.

In addition to the courses in geology and mineralogy, the department conducts courses in plane table, mining and geological surveying, geography and physiography.

Thoughts of Others

ACTIVITIES AND CREDIT (THE MICHIGAN HALLS)

The arrangement made by Prof. F. L. Reed, head of the school of music at the University of Texas, whereby members of the university orchestra will receive credit in the school of music, has met with approval from both the students and faculty of that institution. The Daily Evenhalls have the change as "an excellent arrangement for the mixing of class work and student activities."

The step was taken in an attempt to improve the student orchestra and at the same time give credit to the students who were following this line of work outside of the class room. These students in playing in the orchestra are actively following a musical course in the university and the action which will give them credit in the school of music for their work is just and fair. There are many other campus activities, however, which likewise lead the student to actively practice, as a campus activity, subjects which are taught in the university. These activities merit recognition by school credits equally as much as the orchestra does. Action of this kind could be taken with regard to service in the university band, in business branches of college activities and in many other lines, and would lead to combining the campus activity with the university courses in a solid preparation for a future life work.

STUDENTS REVIVE OLD GAME AT N. Y. UNIV.

Along with the clamoring for chess clubs, ping-pong teams and similar sports comes the report from New York University that the ancient and honorable game of horse-side pitching, more respectably known as quoits, has once more come into its own. Some industrious student planted two stakes on the front lawn of South Hall and set the stage for a new sport.

AVIATION WILL BE INCLUDED IN COURSES OF N. Y. UNIV.

With the approval of President Conroy and Secretary of Navy Donby, New York University will teach aeronautical and industrial aviation. The university is the first American college to have this privilege.

STEPS IN LITERARY PROGRESS TRACED

"Catalogue" Was First Publication at Penn State—"Lemon" Preceded "Froth"

COLLEGIAN WAS STARTED BY LITERARY SOCIETIES

Student publications are as old an institution at Penn State as the college itself. Back in 1868 this phase of college activity was inaugurated when the "Catalogue" of the Washington Agricultural Literary Society made its first appearance on the campus.

This initial literary effort was followed by the first student paper, "The Classen Annual" which was published in 1873 and 1874. It was a large double sheet, containing advertisements, editorials and news of the college.

In the first issue the editor asked the indulgence of the public with the following editorial, "Inasmuch as this is the first printed paper at the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, we have made every effort to give it the appearance of an excellent form and to make its contents as instructive and entertaining as possible." The Annual's first editor was Thomas Barlow, recently deceased, a prominent Philadelphia attorney and a member of the Board of Trustees of the college for many years.

Rivalry led the Washington Literary Society to issue the "Photosphere" in 1874. It was in pamphlet form and was an annual publication. Whether the public was not sufficiently indulgent, the editorial inexperience too pronounced or the financial difficulties too great, these two publications did not prosper and were soon discontinued.

Next, "Lemon," an anonymous, thoughtless, rather scurrilous, but professedly humorous publication, appeared and left the impression that genuine wit and humor might flourish in Penn State environment and so led to the publication of "Froth." Then the "Free Lance," the "State Collegian" and finally the "Penn State Collegian" appeared to be the result of Blue and White publications. Its roots go back to 1879 when two literary societies were established at what was then the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania. These societies had commodious halls in Old Main, libraries of considerable size, held joint sessions and debates in which rivalry ran riot.

On May eighteenth, 1885, the Board of Trustees donated two hundred and fifty dollars to each society for the purchase of books in order to increase the size of the libraries. The societies continued their work until February, twenty-fourth, 1886, when all accounts were closed, the libraries sold and the halls turned into dormitories but, nevertheless, a lasting result was effected by the action of a joint committee proposing definite plans and taking definite steps to found the "Free Lance."

Thus Volume one, number one, published in April, 1887, was the child of the literary societies, its history being bound up with the beginnings of the college. Then came the Eldorado, a purely literary venture which was the outgrowth of a love for literature and fine arts.

It has often been questioned whether the training received in college publications is really worth while and some statistics have been compiled regarding this question. Of the editors and staff writers on Penn State publications, over half are now engaged in teaching or writing, one-fourth in law, banking and business and the other fourth in engineering practice and management. There are nine college professors on the list, three writers of international reputation, one a financial writer and the other one an engineering writer. Five are members of the Board of Trustees and one is the honored president of the board.

DELEGATES ELECTED FOR VOLUNTEER'S CONVENTION

"Y" Cabinet Names Three Students for Conference—World Problems To Be Discussed

At a meeting of the Y. M. C. A. Cabinet held last week three delegates were elected to attend the Ninth International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement which will be held at Indianapolis from December twenty-eighth until January first. Carl Calhoun '25, D. L. Rogers '21 and Raymond Dunbar '27 are the students who will make the trip. Three more men remain to be selected.

The Y. M. C. A. will send two delegates, Miss Alice Koshino '21 and Miss Naida Roof '24 and Harry Klumpp '24 and R. M. Mason '25 will represent the Student Volunteer Movement at Penn State. In addition to the twenty delegates elected to Penn State all foreign students are privileged to attend.

The purpose of the convention will be threefold: to utilize the needs of the situation in the world today and to consider the responsibility of the Christian students of the United States and Canada in the light of this situation; to consider Christ and His way of life as the hope of the world, and to present the foreign missionary enterprise in the light of its achievements and possibilities as an indispensable means of bringing the power of Christ to bear upon the world's needs.

The speakers of the convention will be men and women who are recognized as authorities of the highest order in their respective fields. They will include the ablest students of the industrial, international and social movements of the day at home and abroad.

The "New World," which was confidently expected by many as the outcome of the war, is very far from being realized.

The world is in a more crucial state than it was even at the close of the war. The present world situation will be one of the major themes that will be considered by the coming convention.

FRATERNITIES TO HOLD CONFERENCE THIS MONTH

The annual interfraternity conference will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, on Friday and Saturday, November thirtieth and December first. At this conference, more than two hundred officers will represent their fraternities and a number of college presidents and prominent educators will speak.

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NEWS WEEKLY

PASTIME

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