

Penn State Collegian

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

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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.

Subscription price \$2.50, if paid before January 1st, 1924. After January 1st, 1924, \$3.75.

Entered at the Postoffice, State College, Pa. as second class matter. Office Nittany Printing and Publishing Co. Building.

Member of Eastern Intercollegiate Newspaper Association

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1923

News Editor this issue ... W. L. PRATT

IS STUDENT COUNCIL TO BLAME?

The question has been raised on many occasions this fall by a few interested members of the undergraduate body as to whether or not Student Council is losing its power in governing affairs appertaining to student welfare at Penn State. Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire, and it is true, no doubt, that the student governing body has been influenced to some extent this year in rendering decisions affecting undergraduate interests because of the pressure brought to bear by college officials. But if the students are not satisfied with the functioning of their Council, they have only themselves to blame.

Student Council is primarily an organized undergraduate body for the government and regulation of student affairs. Its members have been elected by their classmates to represent them. Each councilman has a trust to fill with his constituents and they have the right to demand that he perform his duties. The student governing body at Penn State is composed, supposedly, of a representative group of individuals whose duty it is to reflect in Council meetings the thoughts and interests of the majority, and thus ... "But the majority has no interests." The councilmen are agreed on that.

And herein lies the answer to the question raised by the one or two interested members of Penn State's student body. Modern students in general, it appears, can not be shocked or won; they are pleasantly aloof from the bitter interests that tear the world, from the localized problems that make or break a college. They think, but thoughts are thoughts to them, necessary adjuncts to a serene academic progress—not possible solutions of a living, breathing reality.

It is unfortunate that such a condition exists at Penn State, but it is none the less true. Councilmen go out among their fellow classmates when some question of vital undergraduate interest arises, and look in vain for some breath of hot feeling, some prejudice, some clash of ideas. And all they find is a languid tolerance for any idea. Surely a discouraging fact to face, one about which the representatives to state and national governing bodies know nothing.

A frail, passing interest in fads, movies, jokes, amusement—is this a foundation on which to build a strong student government? The councilmen do not seem to think so. There is little need for wonder that Student Council is losing its power to the college officials.

Perhaps the councilmen themselves come in for a share of the blame. No attempt is being made to defend them in any way. Incompetent representatives will never make an efficient and competent Council, but here again the undergraduates as a whole are at fault. When nominations and elections for the student governing body come up at class meetings, it is the duty of the undergraduates to see that responsible men are given these responsible positions. If a candidate is up for re-election, his record as a member should be investigated and action should be taken accordingly.

It would seem a laudable generation in the history of college life. Those students who are not too self-centered, too wrapped up in themselves to ever do the college any good, seem to be functioning in a state of lethargy. The world is a little misty to them, a little remote. They feel that they can not be bothered.

Perhaps the generation that is being born out of the American college of today will have to rub against life a little before it really believes in it. Real interest is an emotion, and emotions spring from the needs of human beings, and so far in this comparatively comfortable college situated in the Nittany valley, there has been little need for real interest and intelligence.

THE GLAMOUR OF RECOGNITION

There is agitation afoot on the campus in several non-athletic organizations and activities for the awarding of varsity letters to individuals who have made good in other than athletic lines. The question of making varsity letter awards for non-athletic prowess is a hardy perennial at some institutions. It blooms forth and dies at regularly recurring intervals in some of the largest colleges and universities in the country, but has not pushed farther than a bud at Penn State until this year.

The mere detail of giving a letter to non-athletes is of minor importance. But it seems somewhat incongruous that musicians, dramatists, debaters and editors should ask recognition in the form of an "S", and value the insignia of the athlete above the appreciation of their audience. Such a demand can hardly come from true artists in their respective lines.

Unrestrained and unabashed clamoring for recognition denotes a smallness of soul which attaches more importance to outward display than to inward satisfaction. It is invariably the small, pompous individual who lusts to be clad in honors and titles, who delights in haunting insignia of accomplishment, in wearing charms and badges just because they are charms and badges. His own fatuous grinding away for recognition, for specious reward, for impossible display of decorations,—his own narrowness prevents his seeing and understanding that the "big" man in college or in the outside world is, in every case, the least ostentatious.

Unfortunately, there is a group of undergraduates in every college who make a fetish of recognition: They worship the varsity letter, the honor fraternity emblem, the campus society insignia, not for the worthy efforts these symbols represent but for the fancied prestige they infer. That the idea is all wrong, is too self-evident for argument.

College men of today, the nation's leaders of tomorrow, should be inspired to do something worth while, not for the attending glory and recognition, but for the sake of doing it. No one admires or even likes a grand-stand player. Grand-stand playing is not confined alone to the athletic field; its benign existence is seen and felt in all forms of activities, in the class room, on the street, in the presence of women; it is a thing to be despised. The little, petty vanities of

human nature, inherent in all mankind but better concealed by some individuals than others, are largely responsible for the present-day clamor for recognition.

Glory, to be glory, depends upon whole-hearted devotion to work. Recognition without power is irony, but power without the glamour incident to modern forms of recognition is a thing to be respected. "Art for art's sake" is the only formula for lasting respect and achievement.

Thoughts of Others

BURNING COALS

(The Purdue Experiment)

Forty-nine representative freshmen pledged four thousand four hundred dollars to the Purdue Union, at a meeting in the lecture room of Stanley Coulter Hall last night. These forty-nine freshmen are part of a group which will be enrolled with the personal solicitations of the freshmen class in an effort to raise a creditable quota. The method of personal solicitation has been resorted to as by far the most satisfactory means will remember the method used in the big drive of 1920. Other students will remember the less concentrated mass meeting drives. All the experiments have led to the one conclusion, however that in the long run, the method of personal solicitation, carefully organized and administered, is, by far, the best.

The action last night fanned the spark of that overwhelming spirit which carried the Union over its first great mountain in the great drive of 1920. It was very evident that the coals of the spirit which have smoldered so lately, smoldered to the extent of remaining all but dormant in the soiled state of the unfinished building. It has not entirely lost their fire, that there is a spirit of energy on awakening in the minds of the younger students, and that the freshmen are evidently catching a hold of the duty and the privilege which awaits them.

The fall campaign, now fully organized, and about to break into a state of activity, will test the appreciation and understanding that the newer students have of the Purdue Memorial Union, what it stands for, what it is and what it will be.

For some time there have been feature articles sprinkled through various editions of the exponent telling of some phase of the Union and its work. These articles are intended to give the freshmen, especially a keener insight into the objectives and possibilities of this great organization.

The explanatory articles will continue. If the class falls in line as well as the representatives did at the first meeting last night, the smoldering coals will burst into the flame of spirit again, and the boarded building will feel the hands of returning workmen.

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Washington and Jefferson and Syracuse, not to say anything of Harvard, though that Haley's comet had gone on another rampage last week-end.

Dillwood City got on the map on Saturday. "Horse" Johnson put up a great game for Penn State while "Nick" Shauer proved to be the star in Pitt's unexpected victory, both players hitting from the little Pennsylvania town.

After next week, the colleges and universities will turn their attention to ping-pong and chess.

"Hinky" Haines was an interested spectator at Saturday's game. An injured leg kept him from performing with the famous Frankford Yellow-Jackets.

Somebody's always talking the joy out of life. After Miltstead, Yale tackle, had played the most wonderful game of his career in the Princeton encounter, his parents announced his engagement.

A Penn State pennant on the backs of some thirty Nittany students served as a ticket to the game.

With defeats at the hands of Maryland, Lafayette and Penn State, all that Penn has to do to make their season a success is to beat Cornell. Quite an easy assignment!

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PENN STATE CONDUCTS CROP PROTECTION WORK

J. W. Miller is Called To New York To Confer with Head of Erosion Institute Board

J. W. Miller, research fellow of the Crop Protection Institute, who is stationed at Penn State, where he is investigating the effects of scab disease upon the growth of fruit trees and upon the blight, a serious disease of apples and pears, was called to New York last week to confer with the chairman of the board of governors of the Crop Protection Institute. The president of this research work. The field phases of this work are being carried out in Massachusetts, four separate points in Pennsylvania and in West Virginia.

The Crop Protection Institute was founded in 1920 under the auspices of the National Research Council. It is a holding corporation, receiving funds from various industries primarily interested in crop protection in its broadest sense. These funds are distributed through fellowships to various research and educational institutions which provide special facilities and opportunities for carrying out the institute's projects.

Penn State is fortunate in being the recipient of one of these fellowships, thus enabling this institution to carry out further investigation on the blight which otherwise would become, at present, an impossibility.

MISS SAVARD ATTENDS ARTS ASSOC. MEETING

Miss Savard of the Art Department of the college attended the meeting of the Mount Airy Association of Pennsylvania held at the Lock Haven High School on last Saturday. This is a yearly meeting of the teachers of art in schools and colleges of the state, and for several years Miss Savard has attended as the representative of Penn State.

The meeting was held in the evening and was very successful. Miss Savard presented a paper on "The Art of the Future" and was highly commended for her contribution.

Miss Savard is a member of the