

# 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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News Editor this issue: J. H. LUM

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1924

WELCOME HOME, PREXY!

Word is received from the administrative office of the College that President Thomas has returned from his vacation. The Penn State COLLEGIAN takes pleasure in welcoming back to the Nittany Valley the executive head of this great institution, a man who has done much for Penn State since taking hold of the helm three years ago.

Much improved in health as the result of a restful and enjoyable sojourn in Southern climes, "Prexy" is ready to assume once more the arduous duties of a college president. And during his absence he has seen the period of growth and expansion of the Nittany institution in the comparatively short time that Dr. Thomas has been at Penn State in the capacity of administrative head of the College. He has been instrumental in effecting many worthwhile changes of a wholesome nature in departmental and governmental regulations. But his chief right to recognition as a benefactor of the Nittany institution lies in the identification of his name and personality with the movement for a Greater Penn State, a great state university to supplant the college of modest proportions which he found here three years ago. New buildings, rising to dignified heights on the campus, are silent tributes to his purposeful and tireless efforts. And the undergraduates of Penn State rejoice with him in the first outward evidence of a successful campaign.

But there are times when the name of a college president, the leader of everything, great or small, pertaining to institutional regulation in the eyes of students, is linked with movements in which he is not the controlling figure. With such unwarranted association, he is oft-times the object of considerable unjust and undeserved criticism. It is the price of his job. And as the executive head of the institution he bears it without comment.

Penn State is even now the scene of just such a situation, and President Thomas is the leading figure. The recent unprecedented reform movements pertaining to student welfare and the drastic regulations imposed upon the social privileges of the undergraduates have aroused a spirit of righteous indignation in the hearts of Penn State students. And "Prexy" Thomas has been subjected to not a little undergraduate criticism of an uncompromising nature. But such criticism is unjust and undeserved.

It is unfortunate that so many reform movements have been launched since the appointment of Dr. Thomas as administrative head of the College. For it places him in a bad light in the eyes of the students. It robs him in the garments of a reformer. But it must be remembered that the president of a college is, in such matters, the mouth-piece of the Board of Trustees, and the Trustees, in turn, according to the dictates of the individuals or group of individuals responsible for the maintenance of the institution, in this particular case, the people of the state.

"Prexy" Thomas has done an immense amount of good for Penn State. And assurance is given that he has just begun. He has the interests of the students at heart as well as the interests of the institution. He wants to be the friend of every undergraduate on the campus, and every student will find in him a friend indeed if he but takes the trouble to look beneath the outside covering of Yankee reserve.

The COLLEGIAN, while strongly opposed to the recent enactments of the Senate Committee on Student Welfare and the seemingly unnecessary encroachments upon the personal rights and social privileges of the undergraduates, wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to pledge anew its support of the administration in any movement which this newspaper believes is for the betterment of Penn State.

### THE YES-EARS

Here at Penn State is a student body that is composed of most agreeable fellows. In fact, it would be hard to find a more pleasant group of men with whom to pass four years of college life than is found right here in the Nittany Valley.

Agreeableness is a virtue, but carried to excess it becomes a vice. When a prominent undergraduate makes the statement that he has never seen a motion defeated in his two years of service on one of the most important bodies of the student government, it is time to stop and reflect on a quality that seems to dominate the actions of the average undergraduate, an inability to stand squarely on his own mental feet and to think for himself.

This lack of self-reliance is evident in the meetings of societies, fraternities and campus organizations. An action is proposed which may be contrary to the wishes of a large portion of the group. Let that action once be put on the floor in the form of an affirmative motion and it is almost certain to be enacted.

Some time ago, a series of radical reforms was instituted that deprived the undergraduates of not a few of their social privileges. Now the average student has little sympathy for regulations, even though they may be designed for his own good, if they restrict his personal liberty. It was indeed surprising that the first reform of this nature did not meet with some outspoken proof of resentment from the student body. But with the exception of a few desultory mutterings, not one cloud, indicative of a storm of protest, darkened the tranquil horizon of campus thought.

For this reason alone the COLLEGIAN is glad that the Student Welfare committee has taken action against June house-party. A spirit of protest has swept through the ranks of the undergraduates and the usually lazy and indifferent attitude of the student has been changed to one of active interest in the problems of the college. Undergraduate leaders are working earnestly, as they have done in the past, seeking a solution to the situation, and they at last have the backing and interest of a student body that has been aroused from its usual phlegmatism. This is, indeed, a healthy condition.

In the past the college has been infested with yes-ers, men who seem to be too mentally lazy and indifferent to think for themselves. It is a wise student who takes an active interest in the campus problems of this institution for he will develop those qualities of straight thinking and leadership that are so much in demand in this present day world.

## HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE BASKETBALL

By B. N. Hermann

Basketball belongs to a large family of games which were invented to satisfy the need for team competition under indoor conditions in which large numbers of relatively untrained people could participate. The great majority of these games have had little vitality, have achieved no great influence and have, indeed, but little popularity.

A mild basketball made its appearance there existed an indoor game with the appeal that our two greatest outdoor games, baseball and football make to the play and fighting instinct that is inherent in all of us. The public appreciates the speed and skill and the strategy of these games and as a result their development has been rapid and their popularity has increased by leaps and bounds. Hence in order to supply a need, Dr. James A. Naismith developed the game of basketball in 1891 at the Springfield Y. M. C. A.

The growth of the basketball popularity has been remarkable. No competitive game can boast of a more rapid development during its first few years. Even the astonishing growth of baseball immediately after the Civil War must give way to the even more astonishing development of basketball in its early years.

The reasons are not difficult to discover. In the first place, the game was so constituted that it met the demand for a vigorous competitive indoor game. In the second place, it was developed at an institution which sends its graduates to all parts of the world. Of the first team at Springfield for instance one player went to China, one to Japan, and one to India.

At first basketball spread most rapidly in the Y. M. C. A. but colleges and schools soon began to play it. Yale adopted the game in 1892, Chicago and Cornell in 1891 and in the same year it was introduced as a part of the physical training of the girls at Smith College, with, of course, differences in the court and rules. Incidentally, basketball appeared as a varsity sport at Penn State in the late thirties.

Not so many years ago the game was very slow and exceedingly rough. Teams were not well coached and the players exhibited little of the speed and cleverness so characteristic of a good combination today. Games were more usually a result of independent effort than because of concerted team play. The tendency toward increasing amount of rough play as a result of vigorous measures to eliminate this undesirable feature and to encourage team work.

At first dribbling was not permitted, a condition that encouraged roughness. Then came the unrestricted dribble which increased rough play and had a tendency to destroy team work. The next rule changes were the limitation of dribbling and approval for the removal of a player who had committed four personal fouls. These rules have had a material influence in reducing rough play.

The game was further speeded up when the ruling was made last season that the ball be out of bounds in a penalty for running. This season has seen a further innovation in that the player who is fouled must shoot the foul ball. This latter ruling is a wise one and was devised to reduce the opportunity for a team to win games through the ability of a highly trained foul shooter. Personally, I am well satisfied with this rule and have always favored it, although Penn State quilters have been blessed in the past with unusually proficient foul shooters.

At the present time the five man defense is the style of play that is universally used. This system was first introduced at the University of Pennsylvania in 1914 and a year later I adopted it here at Penn State. "Andy" Sears of the old Trenton Eastern League team first explained the system to me. The inventor of the five man defense has long been a disputed question but a number of au-

thorities have credited Sears with its discovery. There are two obvious advantages in the use of this system. It concentrates the energy of the players and enables a man to more easily find the opponent he is playing. When a team loses possession of the ball the players at once gather together in front of the goal, they are defending and thus have an opportunity to regain their breath while their opponents are preparing to launch the attack. Moreover, under these conditions a player can more easily spot the man he is guarding.

The efficiency of the five man defense has been largely responsible for the increased difficulty that two evenly matched teams find in scoring. Three years ago I remember a game between Washington and Jefferson and Penn State in which neither team could score in the first fifteen minutes of play.

The game at present is enormously popular, perhaps more so in the Middle West than in the East. Crowds of five and six thousand spectators are not uncommon at Western Conference games and I have been told ten to fifteen thousand people have witnessed some contests. There are obvious reasons for this popularity. Basketball is essentially a single game with few of the complicated formations, penalties and mistakes that are connected with football. The spectators are much nearer the scene of action than in baseball and football. In no other game may the scene change so frequently and so suddenly as in the special skill required to develop a fast and smoothly operating passing and cutting attack. It holds in attention the spectators.

To the player himself basketball has much to recommend it. It develops quickness, self-control, skill, speed and grace. It teaches the obvious necessity of team play, the willingness and ability to work with others, the selflessness and that devotion to a group cause which is so essential in the game of life.

This is the first of a series of articles by faculty members. An article written by Dean Warnock will appear next Tuesday.

## FIFTEEN MEN ELECTED TO C. AND F. FRATERNITY

Delta Sigma Pi, the honorary Commerce and Finance fraternity has elected the following Juniors to membership: J. W. Hawlin, E. G. Saylor, H. T. Johnson, B. F. Gowds, J. C. Clew, J. E. Ryder, V. O. Sanford, J. C. West, J. D. McLean, D. D. Noff, J. G. Vink, P. S. Savers, H. W. Stover, H. Ayers, J. Bidwin.

## Thoughts of Others

(Vale Daily News)

Just why each winter should witness in our midst a poor sportsmanship which is apt to carry us into the spring it is hard to say. Yet each season of winter sports brings me one or more exhibitions of bad manners and excitable rages.

Communications, published in yesterday's issue and today's bring up specific examples. There is no great reason for believing that a referee, on a home floor surrounded by hundreds of spectators temporarily released from reason's sway, would purposely give decisions unfair to the home team. It might be speculated, but it would not be wise to do so. In an important and objectively faulted there are furious protests from people calling themselves sportsmen. If in opinion is put out of the game they become mud in their delight. But if a Yale man fouls and is penalized by the indignation meeting he holds, the official is criticized morally and mentally. In this is in other things for which it is condemned, sport suffers at the hands of a few would-be gentlemen who consider cheapness a virtue and who persist in mistaking the not very gentle art of being muckers who are so uncharacteristic that they draw attention from those who really play and appreciate the various amusements. Eventually public opinion will force such into silence. In the present they continue objectionable unmolested while the name of the University suffers accordingly.

It is the plan of Dean Watts to have this company raise to contribute the necessary amount for the construction of these three houses each of which is to be seventy by thirty feet. The cost of these houses has long been felt by the School of Agriculture, and if the proposed project can be successfully put through it will be a worthy contribution to the college.

## THREE NEW BUILDINGS PLANNED BY "AG" SCHOOL

Arrangements with a nationally known Portland Cement company are now being made under the direction of Dean B. L. Watts of the School of Agriculture whereby three new frame stone houses will be constructed in the near future. These buildings will be for the use of the departments of Horticulture, Farms and Agronomy, respectively.

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## DELTA KAPPA NU SENDS REPRESENTATIVE TO FIRST THETA UPSILON CONCLAVE

Theta Upsilon, new Delta Kappa Nu, sent a representative to the first Theta Upsilon Conclave at Bucknell University recently for the purpose of perfecting details of its organization, the election of national officers and the appointment of committees. B. W. M. Miller's representative, Delta Kappa Nu, local Penn State fraternity at the conference where it was decided to abandon the name of Phi Kappa Pi, taken temporarily at the New York conference.

Ratification of the constitution and laws by the delegates was effected but it was announced that the official organization of Theta Upsilon is pending final ratification, on or before May second, by the ten chapters of the new national. During the convention all emblems and insignia of the fraternity were decided upon and the present name of Theta Upsilon was adopted permanently.

Theta Upsilon fraternity is the outgrowth of the National Interfraternity Conference held in New York last December when eight-five local fraternities bodies were represented at the initiation of the conference. One of the chief aims of the conference was the possible organization of a new national fraternity and during the closing days of the session several local fraternities banded themselves together and tentatively organized a new national and named it Phi Kappa Nu. However, this name was changed to Theta Upsilon at the Bucknell convention last week.

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## PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

## MONTANA U. TO SPEND HALF MILLION FOR NEW BUILDINGS

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KATHARINE HARRAN  
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Pathe Comedy

FRIDAY & SATURDAY—  
MAE MARSH and  
HELEN MYERS  
In "Daddles"  
Fox Comedy "Dittiquette"

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THURSDAY & FRIDAY—  
WESLEY BARRY  
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For the best sentence of ten words or less on the value of the Williams Hinge-Cap, we offer the following prizes: 1st prize \$100, 2nd prize \$50, two 3rd prizes \$25 each, two 4th prizes \$10 each, six 5th prizes \$5 each. Any undergraduate or graduate student is eligible. If two or more persons submit identical slogans deemed worthy of prizes the full amount of the prize will be awarded to each. Contest closes at midnight March 14, 1924. Winners will be announced at noon thereafter as possible. Submit any number of slogans but write on one side of paper only, putting name, address, college and class at top of each sheet. Address letters to Contest Editor, The J. E. Williams Co., Glenbury, Conn.



## About that "MAGIC CIRCLE" YOUR COLLAR

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