

Penn State Collegian

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News Editor this issue J. H. LUM

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1924

DO ATHLETICS COUNT?

In every institution of higher learning, athletics play an important part in the development of the student and the college. Such is the common belief of thousands of men and women who have made a study of conditions existing in American colleges and universities for many years.

It is evident, from certain well-founded reports, that exception has been taken to this general statement by several members of the faculty at Penn State. Is it because they lack an active interest in the sports which are sponsored by the college, or is it just because in such exceptions they may find expression for their own individual ideas? The reason for their unfriendly attitude is not entirely clear.

It has been intimated that some members of the faculty adhere to the principle that college athletics are of no actual benefit to the student, others recognize their value but frown upon the number of class absences which are occasioned by the trips taken in the course of participation in sports at other institutions. The first of these exceptions is unfounded and prejudiced and shows a lack of support to the college and its endeavors. The second is excusable, in part, but the evil of cutting classes can be eliminated only by doing away with intercollegiate athletics. And so long as friendly relations with other institutions exist in the world of college sports, excused absences from classes should be recognized.

A Penn State athlete, risen from the ranks of the mediocre to a place of national importance in his particular sport, has done much to bring the Nittany institution on a par with the other leading colleges and universities which aim to develop a similar project—that of unsurpassed athletics. An athlete at this institution is earnest in his endeavors. He strives to do his work on the field or floor with a zeal that will make Penn State just a little better than the other institution. And his gain is measured, not in the form of money or other worldly objects, but in self-reliance, fortitude, confidence and physical development.

Excused absences from classes are granted by the Athletic Association and permits should be duly recognized by the instructors to whom they are presented. While a serious handicap, perhaps, it is altogether reasonable to expect an athlete to make up the work which he has missed. There is no issue on that score. But there is a grave problem presented when the instructor refuses to accept the excuse which has been granted by designated authority.

What, then, is the athlete to do? His college wants him as its representative in the contest, but his better judgment tells him that he dare not absent himself from class. Whether or not he returns victorious is but a trivial matter compared with the thought that he will not be allowed to make up the work which he has missed. Perhaps he has experienced before the injustice of unavoidable cuts counted against him at the time of final reckoning. But it is a tribute to the athlete that he does not shrink. He takes cuts in a self-sacrificing sort of way and goes out to gather glory for his college.

It is time some steps were taken to correct the situation. It would seem advisable to have a definite and uniform understanding of the weight of an excused absence and the value of a permit to make up work.

THE SOPHOMORE HOP

With the passing of the third annual Sophomore Hop, one more bright page is added to the colorful history of Penn State. Rivaling in grandeur and dignity the most outstanding social events of former years, the Hop may rightfully be acclaimed a pronounced success. It is a tribute to the efforts of the underclassmen.

But, with all its splendor, there is a question of doubt as to whether or not this social function is fulfilling the purpose of its institution. Introduced two years ago as a distinctly underclass affair, it has since been converted into what might be called an all-college event. And as such it invites no particularly favorable comment.

The presence, in unlimited numbers it would seem, of upperclassmen at this year's Sophomore Hop was one of the most noticeable and the only objectionable feature of the whole affair. It is something that must be stopped ere it furnishes cause for official complaint.

The upperclassmen have their Prom and the underclassmen have their Hop. They are two distinct and separate functions to provide for the social enjoyment of all undergraduates. It would be well to keep them so in reality as well as in theory.

CLEANLINESS

Someone has said that, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", but even at that it covers a multitude of sins. Nowhere is there greater danger of unsanitation than in a place where common desire brings a large group of mixed people together. The natural tendency with such a group is to forget, and such forgetting usually breeds disaster. Here at Penn State there is a bit of unsanitation that is being occasioned by the thoughtlessness on the part of some undergraduates. It is the unclean habit of spitting in public. The fault lies entirely with the male students; they are the great offenders in this point of common decency. For some time past a few of the more determined members of the opposite sex have openly condemned those who have been guilty of this unwholesome practice, but their numbers are few. It is generally resented, that is true, but there are not many individuals to be martyred for a cause which appears on first inquiry to be of trifling importance. But is it trifling? If those who are guilty of this crime, for it is a crime, would stop to consider how many cases of sickness have been spread by this one unseen habit, the practice would stop. It is a thing for the individual to curb.

THE COLLEGE FRATERNITY--ITS BEGINNING AND DEVELOPMENT

By Dean A. R. Warnock

The American college fraternity is as old as the nation itself. Phi Beta Kappa was organized at William and Mary College in 1776. Its founders were young men intensely interested in the Revolution and their purpose was to form a union of college men in support of the revolutionary movement. At that time there were but five colleges in the country with a total student enrollment of about three hundred.

This fraternity for twenty years continued in a form very similar to our modern social fraternities. It had a secret grip, ritual, password and motto, but maintained chapters in various places. Later, however, Phi Beta Kappa became strictly an honorary scholarship fraternity.

In the two decades following 1824, the modern social fraternity system had its origin. Delta Phi, Kappa Alpha (northern) and Sigma Phi were organized at Union, Delta Upsilon at Williams, and a fifth fraternity, which is now defunct, at Hamilton. Before 1870 these five had increased to fifteen with branches spreading in every direction. By 1887 the number had increased to twenty-five with three hundred and seventy-five chapters.

In 1922 figures showed about two thousand at the chapters of fifty-five fraternities, the total membership of which included sixty thousand and active members and about five hundred thousand graduates. To these, indications are adding about twenty thousand members. In addition to the strictly social fraternities there are many professional and honorary fraternities, as well as a large number of local organizations. One thousand of these chapters live in houses owned by themselves and valued at approximately twenty-one million dollars.

The American fraternity life is limited to the United States and Canada. There is nothing very much like it in the European universities. Although it is not out of our mind it has adapted itself to the remarkable changes that have characterized society since 1776, it has changed in essential points, probably, less than any other of our American institutions.

From a meeting in a tavern it has developed an elaborate fraternity house system. Lacking much of its early literary tone, it has taken on a pleasant social phase. From a badly decentralized national government it has formed a strong inter-chapter and inter-fraternity organization. From a "sub-

terfuge" existence, it has come out into the open and is generally in close cooperation with the politics and desires of the colleges and universities in which it exists.

But its ideals of obedience, loyalty, scholarly endeavor, good fellowship and high college spirit and its objects remain much the same. Its necessities have changed little. The secret ritual and initiation, grand pass word, obligations and vows still persist as a novel and stimulating feature of fraternity membership.

Of the fraternities now listed as national social organizations, thirty have chapters at Penn State. The first of these fraternities was chartered here in the period from 1858 to 1882, although several of them had an antecedent existence prior to this time. Only two other fraternities were chartered during the next fifteen years. From 1907 to 1915, however, fourteen other national fraternities were chartered at Penn State. The newest chapters belong to what may be called the post-war period.

This list of thirty national organizations includes chapters from all of the fraternities founded before 1900 which have a liberal extension policy and the number of whose chapters is fifty or more. Kappa Sigma, Sigma Nu and Beta Theta Pi are typical of this class. Nine others, represented by chapters here, belong to the flourishing middle group of more recent origin, founded since 1900. Tau Kappa Epsilon and Phi Kappa Tau are typical of the group.

A third division, composed of the so-called older more conservative New England fraternities, having chapters, respectively, in not more than twenty, five or thirty colleges, has not as yet become greatly interested in Penn State. Phi Phi, a typical member of this group, however, will install a chapter here in May. New chapters must come from this conservative slow-to-get group in from the fraternities of recent origin.

The attitude of the college toward the fraternity movement has traditionally been favorable. To the credit of the fraternities it may be said that they have melted a vein of this opinion because of their loyal co-operation with college policies, not the least valuable of their contributions.

The next article of this series will appear next Tuesday and will be by Couch Dave Debar on wrestling.

Thoughts of Others

THE HEN OR THE EGG

(Safe Daily News)

The ancient problem of the priority of the hen or the egg is ever recurring. Each illustration. The hen, whenever democracy is discussed, represents freedom, the egg education. The former can only grow out of the latter, the latter can be produced only by the former. We tell the Philippians that we cannot grant them liberty until they are fit for it, they reply that only the building of self-government will make them fit.

The students and administrators of our colleges are engaged in the same struggle. We call for unlimited cuts, for election of courses and the relaxing of certain rules and requirements. The natural retort is to point out that we have given scanty indication of power to use this freedom wisely. The question cuts for trivial reasons, the student who is in the position of the hen and the accompanying answer to the hard scientific study augurs ill for the chances of students receiving either a thorough or a well-rounded education when the gates are flung open.

A larger freedom might result in the revival of intellectual zeal claimed for it. But the administration, we may rest assured, will not grant it until the student body develops a far greater sense of responsibility. The more practical plan, therefore, would be to concentrate to a greater extent on one of the two methods, resting a little from the agitation to secure the hen and devoting somewhat more attention to nursing the egg. A consistent effort by the student body to show that restraint is needless, though the cultivation of a more sensible attitude toward the curriculum and a more serious realization of the responsibilities implied in a college education, will most quickly advance the distant day when under graduates will be granted complete liberty.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Advertisement for Sanford's Fountain Pen Ink, featuring a bottle of ink and the slogan 'The Ink That Made The Fountain Pen Possible'.

COMMITTEE SECURES AUCHENBACH TO PLAY AT ARCHITECT'S BALL

The annual Architect's Ball will be held on Friday evening, March twenty-first at the Alpha Chi Sigma house. Auchenbach's Serenaders will furnish the music.

The committee requests that all persons attending the dance wear costumes, preferably those of the Egyptian period. The house will be furnished with harmonious decorations, according to H. W. Johnston '24, who has charge of this part of the preparations.

Only the members of the Architectural Engineering and the Landscape Gardening courses are invited, and thus far, they have taken an active interest in the dance, as is shown by the large number of tickets that have been sold during the past week.

The list of patrons and patronesses follows: Dean and Mrs. Sackett, Dean and Mrs. Warnock, Professor and Mrs. Kocher and Dean Ray.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Advertisement for Williams Shaving Cream, featuring a tin of cream and the slogan 'It's on even when it's off'.

MANDOLIN CLUB TO GIVE CONCERT IN BELLEFONTE

As the opening number of a short series of entertainments, the Mandolin Club will give a concert at the Bellefonte Y M C A building on Thursday evening, March thirteenth. The club, consisting of about twenty players, will repeat the program given so successfully at Penn State on Sunday, a week ago, with the addition of a few selected pieces. As an added attraction, "Scrap" Johnston '24, will give a short "chuck" talk, making drawings as he speaks to the audience.

DE MOLAY TO PRESENT SHOW AT BELLEFONTE

J. G. Amend Directs "Honor Bright"—To Be Shown in Bellefonte March Nineteenth

Penn State students of the order of De Molay will add the Bellefonte chapter of that organization in presenting "Honor Bright," that sparkling comedy by Meredith Nicholson, at the Gaiety Opera House in Bellefonte on the evening of March nineteenth.

This play was first presented at the C. C. C. Theatre in Indianapolis, under the personal direction of Stuart Walker. It enjoyed a successful professional run and since then has been played in numerous amateur groups. The play is under the direction of J. Gordon Amend.

The play concerns one Richard Huntington played by J. N. Stewart '27, who falls in love with one Tot Muxel played by Miss Freda Coppenman '27. It happens though, that the love affair progressed under the rose-colored light of a life and when it came out into the open, Richard had a lot to learn about Tot in particular and women in general. The title role of "Honor Bright" played by Miss Dorothy May '27 is the "reveling angel" that comes to Richard in his sore time of need. To go through the trials and tribulations of Richard, Honor, and Tot would spoil the play for its audience. It must be seen to enjoy its many comic situations and peculiar predicaments that occur in the plot.

Too much credit can not be given these three players for their clever handling of their various roles. J. N. Stewart in the role of Richard Huntington gives a splendid portrayal of a fellow that with all his wit and wit not spoiled. The next role for genuine laughs of acting and at no time in Stewart found wanting. Miss Muxel plays a very good "Honor." The role is in individual one, but she handles it adequately and with genuine finesse. Miss Coppenman plays Tot Muxel with a very original one and calls for an unusual interpretation. Miss Coppenman indeed makes the most of it. C. A. Kruber '26 is Bishop Cutton, plays a role worthy of mention, with his never-ending abundance of quotations. He continually brings in the "lunch line." The play is a very interesting bit of humor and it is very well done by the entire cast.

COLD WEATHER RUINS COLLEGE PEACH CROP FOR COMING YEAR

Faculty and students of the Horticulture Department are mourning the loss of the 1924 peach crop. Practically every bud in the college orchard has been winter killed. This was probably caused by the warm weather of the fall which carried the buds in a swollen and tender condition into the winter. The prospects for the 1924 apple crop, however, are very good.

DR. CROCKETT WRITES TOURIST'S GUIDE BOOK

Publication First Appeared Forty Years Ago—Revised by Penn State Professor

"The Satchel Guide to Europe," a book written by W. J. Rolfe more than forty years ago, has been rewritten and revised by Doctor W. D. Crockett, Professor of Romance Languages at Penn State, and will be placed on sale by the Houghton, Mifflin Company early in May. The book was in use by thousands up until the time of the war, but following the great struggle, the well-known book company requested Doctor Crockett to rewrite the publication.

Specializing in the devastated regions of Europe, Doctor Crockett also adds a literary feature to the book as he takes the reader through the hills and valleys of Italy, Blackmore, Scott and Shakespeare. Professor Crockett's great interest in the classical line has led him to pay much attention to the cities of the old Roman empire and the ancient aqueducts and other ruins in Rome are exhibited in detail in this new book.

Much of the material for the publication was obtained during Professor Crockett's recent six in Europe when he visited practically every part of the country wide famous by the recent war. The book, which will be twice the size of the old publication, is clear and comprehensive and gives up-to-the-minute information on all kinds of travel.

YON COLLEGE IS UNABLE TO LABOUR STUDENTS UNTIL 1931

Yon College, England's most notable institution of learning and the alma mater of the royal family, has enough students enrolled on its rolls to keep the school closed until 1931. The school authorities have announced that they are unable to enter any more students before that year and for five years following only prospective students who are sons of old Yonians will be considered.

1087—Jeweled Phi Gamma Delta Sorority pin at Sophomore Hop on Friday evening. Call McCulloch, Bell 170.

1087—An Omega Delta Epsilon pin at Sophomore Hop. Renewed if returned to O D B House. H.

Advertisement for Milk Chocolate Peanut Clusters, 49c. Candyland.

BLIND GIRL, WINS PHI BETA KAPPA HONORS AT MINNESOTA

Blind—but a Phi Beta Kappa in her honor! Such is the record of Florence Carlson, a student registered in the University of Minnesota and enjoying in music. This attainment is thought to be remarkable not only because she is blind, but because only a very small percentage of students are elected to the fraternity in their junior year.

Receiving credit for extra honors, she will graduate next June. She is majoring in music and specializing in piano. In studies taking courses in Greek and Latin.

DOCTORS SELECTED AS IDEAL HUSBANDS BY WILSON GIRLS

A doctor is the "ideal" husband. At least that is what seventeen out of forty-five girls in the senior class at Wesleyan College stated in answer to a recent question. The lawyers came next with eight votes, and the third place was given to ministers who received five.

The Daffodil Theatre Co. advertisement listing various plays and dates, including 'Lionel Barrymore in "Cassidy"', 'Wednesday & Thursday - "The Love of a Fool"', etc.

Melachrino advertisement featuring a cigarette pack and the slogan 'NO one smokes without liking them—for their quality instantly wins appreciation.' Original Melachrino 'The One Cigarette Sold the World Over'.

Advertisement for Opportunities in the Telephone Industry, featuring the Bell System logo and text about employment for seniors and graduates in engineering, arts, and science.