

# 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. It assumes no responsibility, however, for sentiments expressed under this head and reserves the right to exclude any whose publication would be palpably inappropriate. All copy for Tuesday's issue must be in the office by ten o'clock on Monday, and for Friday's issue, by ten o'clock on Thursday.

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News Editor this issue ... H. L. KELLNER  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1924

## CHAPEL EXCUSES

When a notice, stating that no excuses would be granted for absence from chapel, was posted at the office of the Dean of Men last week, a wave of protest swept through the student body. Undergraduates at once jumped to conclusions and many were the indignant statements directed at the authorities, whose ruling would entail hardships to the student working his way through college.

As usual such alarms are groundless and the news in this issue of the COLLEGIAN comes as a needed explanation of the ambiguous notice. The college authorities, far from taking away the privilege of chapel excuses, have merely signified their intention of limiting the privilege to students who really deserve exemption.

Last year it was estimated that approximately eight hundred students had obtained excuses on the ground that their employment interfered with their attendance at chapel. While there are a great many students who are supporting themselves at Penn State, certainly it is true that nothing like one quarter of the student body is employed at work which conflicts with chapel hours. Part of this large number of excuses was due, no doubt, to the fact that students, working only for a short time at the beginning of the year, failed to report the fact that they were no longer working and no longer had a legitimate right to be excused from chapel.

But probably the worst side of this situation was exposed when it became known that scores of students had obtained chapel excuses by dishonest means. As an illustration of this evil, a case can be cited of one fraternity caterer who was known to have signed excuses for sixteen men.

Under the circumstances the college authorities could hardly have done otherwise than to take this definite stand on the chapel situation and to make an honest effort to excuse only those students whose work definitely conflicts with chapel attendance. And the principles of fair play will dictate that the students should support this stand.

It might also be well to point out the significance of this problem. Two years ago the student body petitioned the Board of Trustees to do away with compulsory chapel attendance. But that body refused to consider the abolishment of this institution. Despite the finality of the decision, student sentiment has not changed and the indifference of the average undergraduate to religion finds ample testimony in the recent attempts to evade chapel attendance.

## THE NITTANY LION

Long before the majority of students thought about returning to college for the year 1924-25, some forty or fifty Penn State men were busily engaged in putting themselves in physical condition for a hard season of the greatest sport in intercollegiate circles—the football team had already been working for a month.

For the past two weeks all eyes have been focused on the schedule which still includes nine of the most strenuous games ever arranged for the Nittany Lions. Coach Hugo Bezdek and his assistants have produced a team that last Saturday proved it could play football. The outlook is exceptionally bright this year and if the Jinx can be eluded the misfortunes of last season may be entirely surmounted.

But "Bez", like all true leaders, is not satisfied with medium excellence; he wants perfection. And to that end the Penn State football team will be drilled until it is thought that further scrimmaging and development is out of the question. The result will be a team as good as its personnel, no more can be expected and no more is asked.

Yet here is an example wherein courage, perseverance and hard work will bring forth unexpected results. If college men and women would work as hard to attain standards of scholarship as the Penn State football team works to perfect its plays there would be mighty few failures.

## COMMUNICATIONS INVITED

The attention of that part of Penn State's reading public which includes the COLLEGIAN on its list is directed to a notice in the masthead inviting communications of interest to students and friends of the college. Letters to the editor on questions of current interest are always welcome and, if accompanied by the signature of the writer, will merit the unbiased attention of the editorial board.

It is planned to devote a column of the editorial page to be used exclusively as a medium for the expression of public thought and opinion as voiced in letters to the editor. As herein-before-stated, the writer's signature must accompany the article or letter. Upon request the name of the author may be omitted from print if the article warrants publication. The COLLEGIAN assumes no responsibility, however, for sentiments expressed under the column entitled "Letter Box", and reserves the right to exclude any whose publication would be palpably inappropriate.

A suitable box has been placed in the hall outside the COLLEGIAN office in which all communications and notices of any nature may be deposited. Assurance is given that these notices and expressions of ideas will be accorded immediate and deserved attention.

## Letter Box

Editor, Penn State Collegian  
Dear Sir:

Are Penn State students unfair? Those who witnessed the first night dedication of those fresh who were unfortunate enough not to have friends in the upper classes would have thought so. It has been the custom at Penn State to "razz" the unfortunate fresh found in the vicinity of Co-op on the first few evenings, on at least that is the impression I received last year.

Members of the various fraternities conducted their prospective members from the movies and, in some specific instances, post-Co-op while other fresh, unacquainted, were made to constitute their wares. Maybe the class of '27 were in the wrong and by taking no doubt detested them from thinking what they felt was their previous custom.

If freshmen customs do not apply to every fresh let us abolish them entirely or at least make some effort to equalize their severity so that they fall both upon the fraternity and non-fraternity men in the same manner. If the way of conducting these exercises was wrong, the class of '27 owes a vituperation in apology. This first night initiation should either be regulated by Student Council or eliminated and the freshmen left to the guidance of future classes and the present sophomore class.

Yours for equality in the enforcement of student customs and regulations.  
A SOPHOMORE

## FRESHMEN ENTERTAINED AT ANNUAL RECEPTION

"Prexy" Thomas Extends Welcome to First Year Men and Explains Point System

Last Friday evening, on the front campus, the Penn State Y. M. C. A. conducted its annual reception to the first year men. An attractive program, under the supervision of W. C. Culhoun '25 was arranged for the entertainment of the numerous guests. Getting the long line of freshmen at the "Arch of Welcome" were Dean and Mrs. John M. Thomas, W. C. Culhoun, president of the Y., W. J. Kitchen, General Secretary of the association and his wife, Dean Ray, Chaplin and Mrs. Metzger, and W. G. Weiland, president of the senior class.

The first part of the program was a short concert by the Penn State Y. M. C. A. band, under the direction of Bandmaster Thompson, and Ray Dundero '27, master of ceremonies, next introduced "Prexy" Thomas as the initial speaker of the evening. "Prexy's" talk was short and to the point, the text of the speech being a welcome to the new men and an explanation of the honor point system.

Two musical numbers by the Men's Glee Club were followed by a talk on the spiritual side of college life by the Glee Club in their first appearance of the season.

"College Customs" was the essence of a talk given by "Doc" Wicand, in which the freshmen were told of the many advantages they were to receive through the taking of a year's strenuous customs.

Coach Hugo Bezdek, the idol of the freshmen, next spoke on the subject of college spirit, and his ideas fitted in remarkably well with those expressed by "Prexy" at the opening of college. The reception closed with the singing of the Alma Mater.

The committee in charge of the program was composed of Ray Dundero '27, Chaplain, Dean Wicand, G. W. Fisher '27, J. N. Riggs '27, E. J. Spitzer '27, Emil Brie '27, G. J. Suunk '27, and Nidia Roof, '25. The refreshment tables on the campus, each in charge of four ladies, and one man, were highly decorated with candles and flowers, and the lighting of the campus was accomplished by the straining of Japanese lanterns.



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## SUMMER SESSION DATA RELEASED BY REGISTRAR

Every County of State Represented Among Students—Almost 2000 Enrolled

A recent report from the office of the registrar brings some interesting facts to light about the past summer session at Penn State. It is shown that there were more men attending than in previous summers and also more from distant states.

Every county in the state was represented in the enrollment which totaled 1922. The largest single representation was from Allegheny county with 162 students.

The second largest was Centre county with 140. Three counties, Cameron, Forest and Sullivan had but a single representative.

Twenty-two states, not including Pennsylvania, were represented on the campus this summer. In addition there were students here from the District of Columbia and Porto Rico.

The largest group from outside the state was from New York, which sent twenty-nine. Fourteen came from New Jersey, thirteen from Ohio and eleven from Massachusetts.

It is interesting to note that there was a total of about thirteen hundred women here this summer and 612 men or a total of 1932.

There was a branch of the Penn State Summer School at Altoona in which 117 were enrolled and also a branch at Erie with 69 enrolled students.

This was the first year for the French Institute at Penn State and there were seven-thirty enrolled in this course.

## PENN STATE PROFESSORS MAKE BOTANICAL FINDS

With five hundred different species of fungi growths, L. C. Overholts, J. P. Hill, C. J. Olson, W. A. Kuntz, J. R. Rex and J. D. Stubble returned to Penn State on September fifth after a three week's botanical tour through Canada. The party made a general search but was concerned mainly with fungal blight, but the party detected the spreading of the White Pine Blister Rust and made another interesting discovery in a rare rust upon the cultivated Iris in Quebec. These findings will be worked over here during the winter.

Dr. F. D. Kern and Dr. H. W. Hefzel of Cornell in the employ of the United States Department of Agriculture, visited Porto Rico from June fifth until July twenty-ninth and secured eight hundred and fifty specimens, including some fungi new to science and some new to the North American continent. Professor J. D. Kelly has been carrying on research work with the blue-stemmed Phlox and has also been connected with the newspaper Science Service since the close of the Summer Session.

## THESEPIANS BEGIN WORK ON PLAY NEXT MONTH

With the return of several members of "The Moxie Cove Glee Club", last year's Theopian offering, Penn State's musical comedy organization is looking forward to another successful year. It will be known as "The Moxie Cove" and it is planned to be the outstanding production of last year's comedy who have signified their intention of trying out for parts in the new play.

Their next act, the Theopian male chorus, except one, has re-entered college with only three from the female chorus have failed to return. The greatest losses came to the club through graduation when "Dutch" Zimmerman and "Fork" Moxie, colored comedians, W. E. Hess, male lead and "F. H. Murray, Penn Hurd, received diplomas.

The Theopians plan to start work early this year in order to make a trip at Christmas time. Work on the new show will probably start next month and all talented singers, dancers and actors are urged to try out when the call is made.

## TABACCO EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED BY COLLEGE

Interesting work was conducted during the past summer by F. L. Fallis, '22, a graduate of the department of Agriculture in Chemistry, under the direction of Professor D. J. Hales, on Nicotiana Rust behind nicotine tobacco with the view of utilizing this to keep in the control of soft bodied insects.

The experiment was tried to prepare for commercial use a nicotine dust at a moderate price. Tobacco was cut, dried and then ground and mixed with hydrated lime and water, giving a more successful product than most of the synthetic nicotine dust on the market today.

The preparation is easily manufactured and has been found effective in both laboratory and field conditions. It was also found that the nicotine of this tobacco is just as available as the nicotine in the commercial preparations.

Professors Hales, in conjunction with Prof. or Gardner, of the Agronomy Department is planning to conduct work on the burning qualities of tobacco.



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## PENN STATE BOTANISTS VISIT INSTITUTE OPENING

H. W. Popp '17 Now Experimenting on Plant Growth at Boyce Thompson Laboratory

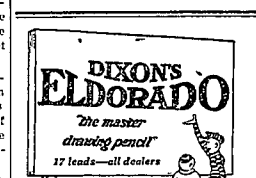
Penn State was represented at the formal opening of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Yonkers, N. Y., on September twenty-eighth by Dr. F. D. Kern and Dr. H. W. Thurston. The institute which will be devoted to botanical work is the result of a six million dollar endowment by Colonel Boyce Thompson, wealthy mine owner.

Dr. V. H. Blackman, a celebrated English botanist, was the principal speaker at the celebration, and there were many shorter speeches. Representatives from American universities, Agriculture Experiment Stations, and other research organizations also addressed the meeting. The results of many important researches were discussed before the group.

The founding of this Institute marks an epoch in plant research, as it is the largest endowment ever given for research work in that field. The work of the Institute is of a fundamental botanical nature, dealing with the problems of growth and food production by plants. With its fine physical equipment, and its freedom to pursue pure research such an institution will accomplish a good deal.

Colonel Boyce Thompson, the founder of the Institute, has always had a fondness for plants and this hobby was the direct cause of the founding of the Institute.

H. W. Popp of the class of '17, an instructor in the Department of Botany



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