

Penn State Collegian

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News Editor this issue..... W. F. Adler

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1925

GOING, GOING—

Standing before a group of prospective buyers the auctioneer calls out in his basso voice "going, going, gone." Whereupon he presents the purchaser with a certain article and in return receives a sum of money. Since 1921, an auctioneer has towered above the Nittany campus, the Penn State spirit in hand, and has asked for bids. Year after year, he has bellowed "going, going," but the last word has stuck in his throat. Yet he is ever hopeful that someone, someday, will make an offer and reclaim the Penn State spirit of old for the sons of Mount Nittany.

It is not something that can be reclaimed in a day, however, and immediately installed in the position it once occupied. Restoring the Penn State spirit to its place of yore is an assignment that will require years to complete, and the auctioneer will not sell until he finds an unselfish student body, a student body that is willing to plant the seed without the desire of reaping the harvest. Enthusiasm runs high for a moment, student leaders wax eloquent, but the Penn State spirit continues on its downward path. Mere talk and enthusiasm cannot bring back over night a spirit that took four years to lose.

Then come those Penn State students of years gone by to tell us how they convinced the auctioneer in their time when the spirit of the Lion was similarly threatened. And, again, student leaders wax eloquent and cry out "excellent. We will do the same thing and get back our old spirit." In their enthusiasm, they fail to remember that this is 1925, that it will take more to convince the auctioneer today than it did perhaps ten years ago. Conditions and customs have not kept pace with the changing student bodies, and the spirit continues to decline.

Perhaps, when a bid is made, the auctioneer, were he permitted, would remark: "You ask for the old Penn State spirit? You, cake-eater and lounge-lizard, who care for nothing but your own selfish desires and personal enjoyment. There is nothing of which you are less worthy, and until you learn the true meaning of Penn State, your four years will have been spent in vain. Real men are worthy of the true spirit of Penn State. You must prove to me that you are not everything I think you are." And then he would be as silent as the sphinx, and the student would have gone away troubled.

"That spirit, that indomitable spirit of 1920 and 1921," remarks someone. Following which, some statistician who is a glutton for remembering all kinds of data brings to our minds the fact that Penn State had great football teams during those years. Without attempting to fool himself, some student compares the graphic charts of so-called spirit and winning football teams. To his surprise, he finds the lines are almost alike. But that spirit, that senseless hullabaloo and artificial loyalty, is not the sort the auctioneer holds in his hand—a winning football team will restore that to the campus.

Some time ago, a senior was on his way to Penn State for the last time as an undergraduate. Eagerly he awaited the moment when he would feast his eyes upon the Old Main tower which he had not seen for some time. Then as the tower hove into view, presenting an imposing sight against the setting sun, the senior strained forward but there was not the response within him that he expected. He was troubled, but not for long. Soon after, College opened, and as the convocation exercises neared a close, the first strains of the Alma Mater sounded from the organ and three thousand voices took up the strain. A minute later, the face of the senior was engulfed in a hearty smile. He was happy, for the inward feeling that he had expected upon the first sight of the Old Main tower had come to him with the opening strains of the Alma Mater. That spirit, that expected reaction, was there when he sighted the tower, but it required something greater, something more powerful, to bring it to the front.

And so it is with Penn State spirit. The auctioneer recognizes the fact that there is still hope for it, that it lies dormant, and requires something great, something big to bring it back. Student leaders are analyzing the situation from every angle in the hope that they may discover the spark necessary to set the jumbled mass into flames. That there are those who have the issue at heart should be sufficient evidence that the word "gone" in the auctioneer's cry will never come.

If there was one man who recognized the true meaning of Penn State spirit, it was the late President Sparks, a man who died for Penn State. Of college spirit, Dr. Sparks said, "It is a difficult thing to define. One man thinks it is measured in terms of noise; another by class battles; still another by attendance at meetings and games. Personally, I would classify it as a sentiment pervading the affections of every student, yet rarely manifest in material form. . . . to see the thousands of students standing and singing

"May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name."

is the very embodiment of College Spirit, if the song proceeds from the heart, and not from the lips. College spirit ranks with love of home and country and the most beautiful things of life.

The words of Penn State's departed "Prexy" form a direct challenge to each and every Penn State man and woman. Undergraduates of today must assume the burden; they must plant the seed which is to bear fruit in years to come. Today, Penn State has a goal to struggle for. She looks forward to the day when every one of her sons will sing "may our lives help swell thy fame," and then go out into the world and live up to this ideal. Until that day, the auctioneer will continue his cry of "going, going, —"

Grid Gossip

Well, between you and the lamp-post, they didn't look so good. But keep it under your hat—they'll be a lot better next week, or we miss our guess.

Jim Foley, captain of the Syracuse eleven, ran ninety yards for a touchdown on the last kick-off in the Orange's opening game against Hobbit. The only way we can stop him, judging by Reule's case in dome almost the same thing Saturday, is to stretch a clothes-line across the gridiron on the fifty-yard mark.

The rule-book doesn't say anything about a game lasting for ten hours. Bez scummed some of his men for about two hours after Saturday's surprise.

Pitt scored four touchdowns against Washington and Lee. Our one consolation is that the Panthers made use of forward passes.

Gil Dohie was pessimistic about Cornell's opening fracas against Susquehanna. He said he had eleven Phi Beta Kappas, not eleven football players. The final score was 80-0. Well, Phi Beta Kappa's usually average around 90—they have to get the marks to make the grade.

Once in Saturday's game, Helbig's presence of mind while everyone else stood around looking wise netted the Lions quite a few yards. It appeared that the preceding "huddle" was nothing more than a "Y" discussion group.

Lungien had one of his front teeth kicked out during a scrimmage. He tells us that now he can squirt water through the opening.

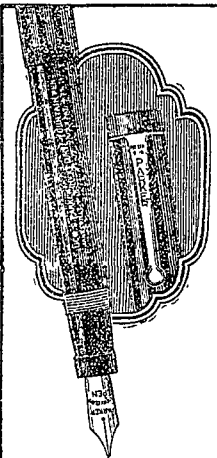
Coach Leonard was sitting in the press-box. Every now and then, after he had failed to notice the change during quarters, he would venture a remark about a Valley back, using a Penn State's name. Maybe it was the distance to the field. Leastways, we looked bigger.

DEAN HOLBROOK URGES FURTHER RESEARCH ON SAFETY DEVICE

A "mechanical ear" to test rock and coal formations in mines was recommended as a possible method of reducing hazards underground from falls of rock and coal, at the opening meeting here this morning of the mining division of the National Safety Council. The idea was proposed by E. A. Holbrook, dean of the School of Mines and Metallurgy at Penn State.

Dean Holbrook called the device an "audio-meter" and urged the council to conduct research work for its perfection as an instrument possible of saving the lives of scores of miners each year. He claimed that such an instrument having great amplification power, would tell instantly whether a section of mine roof was hollow or solid and if it need be braced to prevent a slide or cave-in.

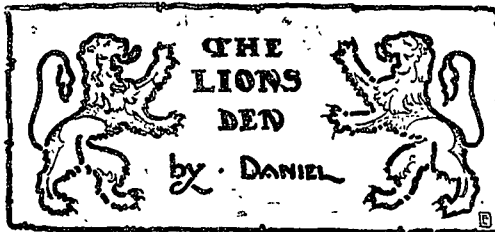
On a special commission from the U. S. Bureau of Mines during the past summer, Dean Holbrook made an exhaustive study on the reduction of mine hazards caused by cave-ins and suggested the mechanical ear today as one method for preventing such accidents. Another recommendation had to do with charges in mine organization.



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CONSIDERABLY RIGHT, VONNIE

My dear Daniel:
Jack Rabbit says your column is bum and I agree with him when he intimates that it cannot continue as is so if no one gives you something to make it better this will make it wouser, i. e. considerably so.

The other nite
At the Corner
A bunch of sophs were
Razzing the frosh
And I thot
How few frosh were
treated likewise
last year
And then today
While coming from Com. 5
Just at the Armory
I saw a lot of sophs
Razzing the Frosh
And then I thot
of that old adage
Save the rod
And spoil the child
And if that is true
"Twenty nine" will be
a credit to Penn State.

Lovingly,
YVONNE.

P. S. How do you like my nom de plume.
Dear Yvonne

I can forgive you for forgetting to enclose the French plume you were talking about and I'll be basket-hearted and run your cast-off ideas, Vonnie, but futtssake, type the next piece off. Our hnotype operators insist on typewritten copy and here I am at four-twenty in the morning, cock-eyed for want of sleep, typing-off your half-witted remarks, just to please a subscriber.
DANNY.

Thoughts of Others

SCREENING "THE PLASTIC AGE"

Cornell Daily SUN
Just when the fury of criticism of the college and the college student caused by the publication of "The Plastic Age" and the host of imitations of this book which followed had generally subsided, and the strains of a more or less obnoxious summer tune calculated to describe the college man have died away,

along comes the announcement that for three weeks the moving picture houses have been working on a film version of Percy Marks' novel. To Wesley Ruggles, who has been chosen director of the new picture, goes the responsibility for anything which may be conceived, and he has quite a responsibility, for he is not only between the fire and the frying pan of the proverb, but between several other fires, any one of which may cause him more or less trouble. Should he move far in any one direction. Professional and amateur critics, holla-than-thou individuals, parents, faculties, and the students themselves, who are really most like-

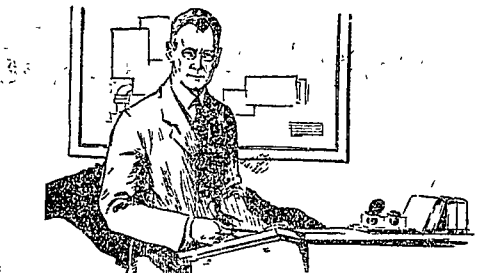
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ly to be affected directly by the picture, all stand ready to bark, snarl and bite.
The topic is a favorite one in all circles of discussion, and only a little spark will be necessary to rekindle all the fires of criticism that have turned more or less regularly since the first publication of Percy Marks' book. All that anyone can ask is a fair interpretation of real conditions. The college student may have to fight for his position, but he will not mind it if it is for his real position.

LOST—One ladies' gold watch, Waltham with gold fob, near Shingletown reservoir. Finder please return to 431 W Nittany Ave. 2t

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