

Penn State Collegian

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The Penn State COLLEGIAN invites communications on any subject of college interest. Letters must bear the signatures of the writers. Names of communicants will be published unless requested to be kept confidential. It assumes no responsibility, however, for sentiments expressed in the Letter Box 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 a. m. on Monday, and for Friday's issue, by ten a. m. on Thursday. Subscription price—\$2.50 if paid before December 1, 1925. Entered at the Postoffice, State College, Pa., as second-class matter. Office: Nittany Printing and Publishing Co Building, State College, Pa. Telephone 292-W, Bell.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1926

STEAM SHOVELS IN DEBATING

"Resolved, That the Chinese system of education caused the downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte" or "Resolved, That the Federal Reserve system is a menace to the capitalists." Of course, these propositions are slightly exaggerated but, nevertheless, they indicate to a certain degree the modern tendencies in intercollegiate debating. Today the collegiate forensic artist selects a subject which would probably interest only the President and his cabinet, then becomes a human steam shovel in digging out facts that interest nobody and his brother, and presents the argument to an audience that consists of two "packed" rows. We ensure the undergraduate for his failure to attend but, after all, is he at fault?

In the business world, if a manufacturer found that the buying public did not favor his product, what course would he be likely to pursue? It is certain that he would not condemn everyone and continue to produce the same article. No doubt he would analyze the taste of the public and then conform the product to the demands of the people. And it is high time that those who select the issues for intercollegiate debates follow a similar policy.

"The subjects should be of real, ordinary, everyday interest to the student,—not to someone else," states Stephen Leacock in a recent article in the McGill Fortnightly Review. The majority of undergraduates are interested in college questions. College life is their specialty. They are merely studying what is vital to them in their present field. It is part of the present-day trend to major in one line of work or activity. If students are not greatly interested in the Chinese system of education or the League of Nations, what matter? These issues belong to the most skillful of international statesmen.

In intercollegiate debating, the size of the question must be stupendous—its broad as the continent and as comprehensive as the census. For these issues the orators devote twenty minutes and two minutes for rebuttal. Twenty minutes to argue out the intricate economies of a continent, and two minutes to "rebutle" all North America. When the League of Nations, municipal ownership, and initiative, referendum and recall become part of the daily life of the student, when he has an actual contact with them, when they become part of his speciality, he can seek authority from the same books and pamphlets to which the "human steam shovels" resort.

Let us have issues with more "local" interest. Any question which demands thought, not an issue that involves the collection of a huge volume of dry facts and statistics, is suitable. It is worth a "fling" to say the least.

"HAIL TO THE LION"

We are stumped! From the Oregon Emerald comes the announcement that Oregon U. is not alone in its song problem. Another problem, but not of the usual run. We thought it was a problem which had to do with the students. Most problems do.

A writer in The New Student laments as follows: "In general, college songs are woefully in need of dry-docking and overhauling. They are too flowery, insincere, too archaic in diction, too rhetorical and symbolical. There is too much sentimentality and not enough sentiment. And it is sentiment that we need—the sentiment born of true college feeling. We need . . . the sort of song that you unconsciously hum while you're working, and gather in groups to harmonize over in the soft twilight of long Spring evenings." Good for him. Perhaps he's a lyric tenor.

To our mind, Penn State's songs are just right—they strike a happy medium. Of course, no one bothers to sing them when the time is ripe, but they are sung sometimes. They are harmonized, too. But the harmony comes and is like the man who always says the right thing at the wrong time. From the amount of harmony that floats around the campus these week-end evenings a listener might think that "Victory" and "The Nittany Lion" were component parts of a modern collection of drinking songs. If our songs must be harmonized, do the puts up brown at the right time, don't waste good music on a couple of "whiskey tenors."

CONGRATULATIONS

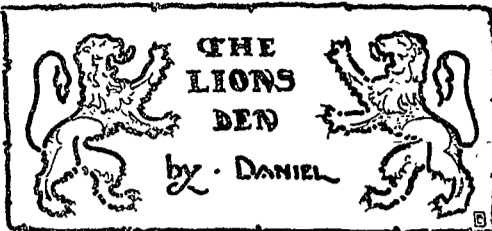
To the Senior Ball Committee for its untiring efforts in giving to Penn State the best Ball in the history of the College. To the boxing team for its impressive victory over the University of Virginia. The clean sportsmanship evidenced by both teams was all that could be desired.

To the wrestlers for their great display of Penn State spirit in conquering Syracuse.

To the basketball team, crippled as it was, for downing Georgetown and putting up a game but losing battle against Navy.

To the freshman basketball team for continuing its unbroken string of victories.

To Penn State men for their excellent conduct over the past week-end.



"Cops!", shouts the limotype operator. "Frenziedly we search the office. A second time comes the maddening cry, "Copy, more copy!" In-
eouantly we read through Sheila's hebetate conglomeration of Webster's elite, becoming more in-spirated with each line.
Yes, we agree with this erstwhile dominant follower of Mencken. If we "read more inspirations like this," we would be inspired to sudden and violent deaths but the world would be bettered.
Again the woman has her way.
Dear Daniel,
I want to see you so troubled about not knowing how to write. Maybe all you need is inspiration.
In those halcyon days that used to be
When women were womanly
And men were manly,
It did not seem to be a burden to write
Love songs,
Pastorals scenes,
Gossamer woe.

Man, mere and womanlike as today
Merely lifted his eyes on high
Beheld the sparrows in their nests,
The waving weeds,
The engine steam,
The heavens blue,
And maids demure
Then stoked he his forehead, white and high,
And dipped his pen in living ink
And wrote whole strings of fire
Multitudes read, grew ambitious, fought, made love,
Or if, perchance, a woman yearned
To touch some souls with a tear wand,
(Sweet Daniel heed,
For you know nothing
Of next to nothing
Of sentiment)

She coiled her heart with murderers' knives
And tied heavily with the masses,
Vibrated the sick,
Hunted up broken hearts,
Pierced them,
And buried homeless troubadours
Then sat she at her marble desk
In her best parlor, moodily cheerless and quiet
She swung her hands, her handkerchief, her hair,
And drank the dregs of damp despair,
And shrieked to all existing gods
Her lament
Then stung this on the point of her quill
And wrote
Multitudes read and wept and fainted
Your affectionately,
Sheila Amelna

P. S.—This world would be a better place to live in if more worthwhile men like you read inspirations like this.

She coiled her heart with murderers' knives
And tied heavily with the masses,
Vibrated the sick,
Hunted up broken hearts,
Pierced them,
And buried homeless troubadours

Then sat she at her marble desk
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W. W. SWETT EXPLAINS FACTS ON MILK TONIGHT

United States Bureau Expert Analyzes Dairy Problems and Experiments

Speaking on "The Relation of Type and Conformation of Dairy Cattle to Milk Production," Prof. W. W. Swett, formerly of the University of Missouri, and now with the U. S. Bureau of Dairying, will address the Penn State section of the American Dairy Science association tonight at seven o'clock in Room 279 Dairy building.

Professor Swett's visit is in connection with a co-operative experiment which is being conducted at Penn State, Cornell, University of California and nine other institutions under the direction of the U. S. Bureau of Dairying. The object of the experiment, which has been in progress for the past two years, is to determine the relation of the type of dairy cattle to milk production.

Professor Swett pays frequent visits to the various colleges and universities which are co-operating in the conducting of the experiment, taking with him suggestion for methods of obtaining data. This is his second visit to Penn State. His lecture, which will be illustrated by lantern slides, will include some of the results obtained through the experiment.

LOST—Fountain pen, Schaeffler, "Lady Lifetime" point, gold band, clip and filler. Return to "Y" Hut or L. J. Melton, 191 W. College

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DANCERS ACCLAIM SENIOR FUNCTION COMPLETE SUCCESS

Strains from 'Whitey Kaufman's Orchestra Greet Guests at Imposing Ball

ELABORATE DECORATIONS LEND COLORFUL SETTING

Four Hundred and Fifty Couples Attend Annual Formal in Armory Friday

The Senior Ball has at last taken its proper place among the other social functions at Penn State. Beneath the myriad of colored lights and decorations that transformed the Armory from a dull gymnasium into a huge ballroom, four hundred and fifty couples danced to the irresistible strains of popular melody last Friday night, more than double the number ever present at the Senior class function in the past.

With "Whitey" Kaufman and His Orchestra at its best, a variety of appealing dance numbers and rhythm fused the upperclassmen and guests to forget all past, present and future worries. "Whitey" himself swung a magic baton and drew from his ten musicians the type of music that has given the popular Victor Recording Orchestra an all its own.

Elaborate Decorations The decorations for the affair were furnished by Silverstein and company of Wilkes-Barre. A huge checker-board of interwoven strips of blue and gold bunting formed the ceiling of the ball room. From the edges of the ceiling white draperies extended to the four walls, meeting them several feet above the floor to which place they were then directed.

A canopy lighted by several gold-colored stars led directly to the floor. Overhead, the ballroom was lighted by a chain of lights surrounded by multi-colored shades, which extended around the four edges of the ceiling decoration.

The absence of favors, heretofore considered essential for a dance of this type at the Senior Ball, caused much comment. The majority of the dancers were perfectly satisfied without the usual mementos, which added greatly in the reduction of the subscription price.

Novel Ideas Several original ideas, worthy of comment, which added greatly in making the dance a success, were put into effect by the committee. Each fraternity booth was readily identified by a single bearing the Greek symbols of that fraternity. The number of each dance was announced by

phileads. Complimentary admissions to the ball were in the form of formal invitations, which aided by the fact that each ticket to the affair was numbered, made the checking of the tickets sold much simpler and more accurate.

The only "favor" of the dance went to Miss Esther Ziegler of Harrisburg. Before intermission the numbered ticket stubs held by the committee were placed before "Whitey Kaufman, who drew the number 578. To the holder of the corresponding ticket went a five pound box of candy. Each member of the committee was presented with a gramophone through Silverstein and company.

Dance Draws Comment In commenting about the Senior function several of the patrons and patronesses voiced the opinion that the dance was among the best they had witnessed at Penn State. The success of the dance this year has assured the Senior Ball a prominent place among the other functions in the future.

The committee in charge of the affair was composed of G. M. Cook, chairman, Miss Ruth Schaeffer, Miss M. B. Chambers, B. M. Hackett, E. G. Hawkins, A. Y. Smith, Hugh Jones, W. G. Gray and D. D. Henni, ex-officio.

FOR RENT—Tau Phi Delta Fraternity house, 512 West College Avenue. For occupancy September 1, 1926. Inquire Elmer C. Ross, Lemont, Pa. 2-12-26

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