

Penn State Collegian

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TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1926.

ANENT THAT "REQUIRED STANDARD"

We have entered once again upon that period which is agony for the student and joy for the instructor, according to the average undergraduate's viewpoint. Final examinations are upon us; a day and a night spent in hurried review of a course, remembering dates and names, movements, policies, statesmanship; hurried jottings of calculations of supposedly important facts (if we know or have an idea of what the instructor likes); charred table-edges from forgotten cigarettes, a blue haze of tobacco smoke, heeled butts crowding the corners. Visions of the instructor who faithfully peruses his text in order that he may find catch questions (we imagine) and matters of no import, so that he may smile lightly when he sees the surprised visages of his students the following morning. Examination week—thank the powers that it comes in its intensity but once in a semester.

Cannot something be done about this spirit-sapping parasite? Like a leech it clings to our educational system; why? no one knows. Final examinations are little more than comprehensive reviews of the amount of information a student receives in a given course, while they could be made to be objective and really useful.

President Lowell of Harvard once said: "When a man's life ends, we ask what he has done; but a diploma from a school or a degree from a college is not an obituary, and when a student's education ends, we should ask, not what he has done, but what he is or has become."

"Yet most of our examinations are adapted to ascertain little except knowledge, which tends to promote mere cramming; whereas the tests in the great school of active life depend rather upon the ability to use information. Surely examinations can be framed to measure not only knowledge but the ability to comprehend and correlate what is known. In short, to test the grasp of a subject as a whole."

"One of the defects of much of our teaching—and especially of the lecture system—is that this part of the function of education is to a great degree lost from sight. An improvement in our examination system which will measure the grasp of a whole subject is, I believe, the most serious advance that can be made in American education today."

The trouble with final examinations is that they are used and wielded by instructors as "big sticks," that instructors take advantage of this privilege in order to scare students into cramming a comprehensive review of a subject into their whirling brains, a process which makes the "visit" of the material endure for only the following twenty-four hours.

An examination which would test the student's intelligence and ability to apply his knowledge is a product of the technical schools and certainly is a distinct improvement over the examination in use today in other lines of endeavor. Until examinations are given in such a spirit, until they become useful rather than artificial, until they serve as a test for understanding rather than the capacity to cram, they are one of the gravest defects in America's sieve-like educational system.

KEEPING THE FAITH

And now, after the students, friends, faculties and alumni of Penn State have been witnessing for the past year, that constant parade of loved educators from this College, we ask these four groups to focus, for the moment, their attention upon two noted educators who are to come here:

Dr. Wheeler F. Davey, one of the few internationally known American physicists, and Dr. Emil D. Reis, a specialist in motor fuel research, will be present in September to carry on their work in important scientific problems at Penn State.

After watching with apprehension the procession of renowned members of our faculty into other and distant climes; after feeling that there was no room here for men who wanted to accomplish bigger, larger things; after this exodus has made us believe that the fame of Penn State is on the decline, our faith is instantly restored by the announcement that two such noted masters of research are to accept appointments on our Chemistry and Physics faculty.

There is no doubt but that we had some reason for imagining the Penn State of the future as a college of puny students and scrub professors, but with the announcement that Dr. Davey and Dr. Reis have been secured as Professor of Physical Chemistry and Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, we pause to think over our attitude. There are still great educators at Penn State, even if several of the great have departed. And, without doubt, there are many of the great yet to come. Dr. Davey and Dr. Reis are among the latter.

Let us lose that tilted vision of the future. We must gain a broader vision of what is to be Penn State. We must keep the faith.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS CHOSEN BY DANTE CLUB

With the election of student officers and the appointment of four members of the faculty as honorary members of the organization the Dante Club met for the last time Thursday evening.

Dr. L. E. Foster, head of the department of romance languages, Prof. J. W. Foss, W. D. Crockett and R. E. Flanagan, were the faculty members elected to the Dante Club.

R. Gentlesco, '27 was chosen as president of the group and A. Franco '28, H. Franco '29 and J. Ghivizzani '28 were elected to the offices of vice-president, secretary and treasurer respectively.

To Distribute Caps And Gowns Friday

(Continued from first page)

tent to be erected in front of the Armory. Two dollars and fifty cents rental will be charged. The one dollar deposit required as guarantee will be refunded when the outfits are returned.

The committee, consisting of R. T. Kreibel '26, chairman, A. O. McClellan '26 and C. A. Reichard '26, desires that all seniors co-operate in returning all the caps and gowns in as good condition as possible, because of the fact that the cost of any missing or damaged outfits must be defrayed by the class.

Dean Wendt Speaks On Chemical Works

"The Story of Sulphur," "The Hydrolysis of Water" and "The Story of Potassium" were the titles of films shown in conjunction with a talk given by Dean G. L. Wendt, of the School of Chemistry, at the Nittany theatre on Thursday evening.

Many unusual and interesting views of the subject were presented. "The Hydrolysis of Water," showing the probable structure of the molecule was particularly interesting. Dean Wendt added to the interest of the different films by explaining several of the scenes with short, informal talks.

CO-EDS ELECT CLASS OFFICERS FOR 1926-27

Elections occupied the greater part of the campus interest among the Co-eds last week. The balloting resulted in the election of the following girls to lead their class for 1926-27.

Class of 1927
 Miss L. F. Baker, president, Miss J. L. Chapman, vice-president, Miss I. A. Schantz, secretary, Miss H. S. Dot., treasurer, Miss H. S. Dot., social chairman.

Class of 1928
 Miss E. C. Whiteman, president, Miss H. Lewis, vice-president, Miss J. E. Smith, secretary, Miss U. L. Remick, treasurer, Miss M. C. Carr, social chairman.

Class of 1929
 Miss M. E. Watkins, president, Miss N. Krout, vice-president, Miss E. F. Monique, secretary, Miss M. M. Keek, treasurer, Miss D. E. Calloway, social chairman.

Holmes Field Chosen As Girls' Dorm Site

Realizing a growing demand for more adequate accommodations for girls at Penn State, the Pennsylvania Grange is sponsoring the erection of a new girls' dormitory. The structure, with an estimated cost of \$250,000 and with rooming capacity for 125 people, has already been given its site on the campus map.

The building will be erected on Holmes field on the open space between MacAllister Hall and the home of A. R. Warnock, dean of men.

During the summer, various Grange branches will conduct festivals, dances and other social events, the receipts of which will add to the present total. Several prominent women members, having written a recipe book for household use, are aiding the cause by selling their publication.

3 handy packs for 5¢

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"Y" CABINET ASKS AID IN ESTABLISHING FRESHMEN

Volunteers To Offer Assistance To New Students Through Personal Letters

In order to aid next year's incoming freshmen to become established at Penn State, the Freshman "Y" Cabinet has launched a campaign to secure underclass volunteers to correspond with one or more of the new students to help solve their initial problems.

Late in August, the "Y" will send the names and addresses of the newcomers to those who have agreed to co-operate in this movement. The volunteers will then write personal letters to the freshmen assigned to them, introducing themselves and proffering their assistance.

As several hundred students will be needed to make this plan a success, the "Y" urges all those who are willing to aid in this work, to hand in their names by the end of this week at the Hut.

Physicist To Present "The Boomerang"

(Continued from first page)
 He explains his version of love. The doctor's treatment of Bud is fairly successful but as is sometimes the case with a boomerang, the implement misses its mark and returns to harm the thrower.

Such is Dr. Sumner's young woman and throws a boomerang herself bringing the play to a happy ending.

N. O. Zimmerman '27 and Frances Hayward '28, take the parts of Dr. Sumner and Virginia Xelba respectively while Ruth Warner '28 and O. S. Anderson '28 fill the roles of Mrs. Woodridge and Bud. The play will be under the stage direction of H. N. Pendleton '28.

Letter Box

Editor, Penn State Collegian, Dear Sir:

In behalf of Nittany Post 245 of the American Legion, we wish to express our thanks for the way in which the students cooperated in making Memorial Day successful.

We wish to thank the students who took part in the parade and those who formed the firing squads for the various cemeteries.

JOHN R. DOTY, Commander Nittany Post.

Physicist Accepts Department Post

(Continued from first page)

research laboratories of the General Electric company which he has been stationed for the past fourteen years. Dean Wendt expressed great pleasure at Dr. Davey's decision to come to Penn State, stating that his addition to the staff of the Division of Industrial Research recently established in the School of Chemistry and Physics will enable the College to undertake several additional investigations of direct benefit to the industries of the state and nation.

Dr. Davey is well known at Penn State, having received his master's

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 - CHAIRS - - - - - \$3.50
 - DESKS - - - - - \$12.50 to \$25.00
 - TABLES - - - - - \$5.00
 - COSTUMERS - - - - - \$2.00
 - GATE-LEG TABLES - - - - \$5.50
 - DRAWING BOARDS - - - - \$1.25 to \$3.00
 - SWINGS - - - - - \$5.00 to \$10.00
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degree here in 1911 under the late Dr. G. G. Pond. He then went to Cornell University to conduct a program of cancer research, and started research work for the General Electric company in 1914. At the present time Dr. Davey is a special lecturer on X-rays and crystal structures for Union College, and has filled similar assignments at Penn State, Yale University, M. I. T., Cornell University, University of Michigan and Williams College. During the past twelve years he has written sixty-two scientific papers for publication.

Dr. Reis is a graduate of the University of Chicago and received his doctorate degree in engineering at M. I. T. He is the author of a book on applied thermodynamics, now on the press, and has established a reputa-

tion as a research chemist in motor fuels and lubricants. The coming of these two faculty members to Penn State has aroused a greater interest in graduate study. Indications point to the fact that a number of the seniors who will graduate next week from the School of Chemistry and Physics have decided to remain in order to work for an advanced degree.

FOR SALE—A 1922 Ford Coupe in good condition. Motor just overhauled. Just the car to drive home. Fifty dollars takes it. J. E. Knott, Vegetable Gardening office, Hort. Building, Jty

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The Nittany Theatre Co.
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 CATHAUM
 Tuesday—W. C. FIELDS in "It's The Old Army Game"
 Wednesday—MARY ASTOR and LLOYD HUGHES in "High Steppers"
 Thursday—CHARLES RAY in "Paris"
 Program for Friday and Saturday To Be Announced Later
 Added Attraction On The Stage Friday and Saturday MASQU AND DIXON ORCHESTRA

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We can at least help you please her by your table at House Party
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REDUCTION SALE

Our great reduction sale is still on. You will have an opportunity till Thursday, June 10th, to supply your needs from our still large stock of high grade merchandise.

- SUITS**
- One lot Society Brand \$50 value \$24.50
 - \$40 Statler Brand 32.50
 - \$45 Society Brand 36.50
 - \$45 Kirschbaum 4 piece . . . 36.50

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- McGregor Blazer Coats . . . \$7.50
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 - White Duck Knickers plus 4 . 2.95
 - White Linen Knickers plus 4 . 4.15

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