

# Penn State Collegian

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News Editor This Issue - - - - - Wheeler Lord, Jr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1926

### PENN STATE PROGRESSES

Student Board, formerly an organization in name only, has at last become active. The Board composed of three seniors, two juniors, and one sophomore, some time ago petitioned the Council of Administration for a grant of power enabling the Board to hear cases of infractions of College regulations, and to recommend suitable disciplinary measures to the Administration. The petition was accepted by the Council of Administration, and the members of Student Board together with two members ex-officio and without vote, the Dean of Men and the Dean of the School in which the offender is enrolled, sit upon cases which are reported to the Dean of Men.

Several cases have been before the Board, and discipline for the offenders has been recommended to and approved by the Council of Administration. No case, however, has been of sufficient interest to permit publicity, until a contested case of "cibbing" was brought before the jurors last week.

The offender admitted his dishonesty, and further evidence, intended to convince the Board of the offender's dishonest intent in a matter entirely outside the jurisdiction of these students, was placed in the hands of the body. A complete investigation into the record of the student indicated a lack of interest in classroom work, and a marked decline was noticed in the student's work over a period covering several semesters.

Hesitant to dismiss the man from College, the Board considered the evidence thoroughly, and the thought prevailed that if a man has character, it will come to light if an attempt is made to unearth it. The offender's record showed a brilliant freshman year—from then on, his grades went quickly downhill. After a long deliberation, the following decision was handed down by the student jurors:

"The student in question shall be dropped from the course in which he admittedly was dishonest, and shall receive in that subject a grade of minus two (-2). A notation giving the reason for the grade shall be written upon all cards bearing his College record.

"In his remaining five three-credit courses, the student shall be required to obtain fifteen credits and eighteen honor points.

"Failing to fulfill these requirements, the student shall be dropped from College at the close of the present semester.

"Notification of this decision shall be sent to the student, to the head of the department concerned, and to the Dean of the School in which the student is enrolled."

When students take Penn State Honor lightly, students will hear the case and render the decision. Students, more than any other body, are able to look upon all offenses from an undergraduate point of view. When students take into their own hands the matter of disciplining members of the undergraduate body, Penn State has gained the good-will and confidence of the foremost champion of her honor—the student body. The Student Board works! Penn State progresses.

### ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING?

"Students at modern universities are spoon-fed, instructed parrot-like, and taught not to think. You go with the current, wait for the band to play, and move with the mob-line. You do not think, dare and act alone." This from Sherwood Eddy to the student body at Ohio State, a group representative of the entire student body of a nation.

To this statement, which is shouted too often and too loudly to be of any weight, Mr. Eddy added a fresher bit that at Yale university he was robbed of an education and halted in his progress by the enormity of an educational system.

A little thought and we awake to conclude

that identical misfortune also may fall upon us, and such a realization becomes shocking upon becoming imminent. When a man has finished College and has been given a diploma to tuck under his arm, is he really equipped, or will he be limited to his individual sphere and confined to a rut by the monstrosity of specialization?

This is the excuse—the one great excuse—for the contentment of the student. The undergraduate is not trained to be a leader; he is trained to fill one small niche, to be one small part of the scheme of things, to be one small cog in the great machinery of life. The only admonition offered the spoon-fed one is that as a cog, he must not become worn.

No longer is a man's vocation defined by such terms as engineering, medicine or pedagogy; the man learned in a broad field is forgotten. Now the engineer confines himself to sanitation or welfare work; the doctor to nose and throat or to misplaced grizzard; the teacher to junior high school or to child psychology.

This is fine, a world in which every man-patron, every cog—has prescribed duties laid out for him. But what to do in event of an unforeseen exigency? Now bring on your violent religious and economic upheavals such as were met and solved in the middle ages. Who among us will take the place of a Martin Luther or a John Sturtevant? Well enough to establish an order of specialization when conditions finally have settled, but we still are centuries removed from the millennium.

There is a facile solution—easily evolved and easily applied—and that is to educate the specialist. Let the undergraduate appreciate something of the order of things before he crawls into his niche. Let him not lose sight of entirety by a too-zealous attention to detail.

—R. M. A.

## The Bullosopher's Chair

SMITHERS The Bullosopher is still in a faint, so I'll have to do the talking today. And—well, they've gone and done it. The Players, I mean.

"Merton of the Movies," the dramatization of the popular Stuevepost serial by Harry Leon Wilson, is the latest, and, I might say the best, of the Players' successes. The production was staged both Friday and Saturday evenings, and for almost the entire evening, and the Collegian is to be blamed for the depressing effect of Friday evening's house. Not one word was said in the heading of the story in last Friday's paper about the nights in which the show was to be presented. Consequently, attendance at the premiere was limited to a paltry hundred-plus, including the ushers.

Every now and then, after a period of laxity in attempts to stage really good plays, the Penn State Players burst forth in all their glory and do something big. "Merton of the Movies" marks the emergence from the "trifling-done" into the stage of the "well-done" stuff, how long the hit in the new oven will last is not to be prophesied.

There is a great deal to say about "Merton of the Movies." Most of it is commendatory, too. Of course, there were, to be frank, some bad breaks here and there—and when they were bad, they were rotten. On the other hand, the bad spots were so well sandwiched between exceptionally good portions that the play went off with a bang that must have sounded as far out as Boalsburg.

The casting of the play must be praised. B. F. Rickett as Amos Gahwiler, D. M. Buchanan as Merton, Miss A. V. Kistler as the Countess, R. E. Wallace who played Rosenblatt, Miss M. P. Oehme who was brilliant as the female lead, the Montague Girl, F. H. Kintz as Henshaw, W. B. Hiko as Jeff Baid, and M. C. Young, his assistant; R. A. Wilson as the superb Palmalee these characters stand out as the best bit of individual-character placements that the Players have had in quite some time. This play required some time. This play required a real "cast" of real "characters," and the selections that were made for the principal roles were probably made with a true vision of just what sort of acting and personality each stage personage must have. Needless to say, the choices were splendidly made, that is, with one or two exceptions—and here one must make allowances for the number and quality of aspirants which the coaches were required to deal with.

On Friday night, there were many evidences of lost stage presence. These disappeared with the second showing, and the improvement over the first performance was extremely noticeable. Kintz made the most marked advance on Friday evening, he swore like a peevish dominie;

the following night he profaned like a Sergeant Quirt. His actions and gestures were forced both nights, but by Saturday the "forcing" had become mutual, with the result that he looked not so "staged" as he had on Friday.

E. S. Pasle as Elmer Huff did not come up to his part. He should have monopolized the stage, just as the typical small-town rouser and bluffer would, instead, he sat on a soap box and spoke his lines. He had the build and the voice and the bearing—but he wasn't at his best. Miss M. J. Cesson shows great promise. With more experience, she will blossom out as a good performer. W. E. S. Schoeneck was miscast, or else he cannot play an elderly character. He knew his lines, but he was too youthful.

For the superlatives (Swoeger, Perlman, Haag, Smith, Straw, C. B. Gilbert, Bailey, T. L. Gilbert, Steele, Miss Mottet, Betollette, Turzilo), I'll say that they did not interfere with the action of the play and that there was nothing wrong with them as far as I could see.

He made "Gash" live and made the audience enjoy seeing him live. He was always in character and should figure in many more plays because of his great work in this one. More than honorable mention should be the deserts of Miss Kistler. She had only a small part in the play, but she did it so well that the memory of her still remains. As a Casting Director must be, so she was. Nothing more can be added.

All attempts to handle the directors of an production in one paragraph. Wallace was a great deal better Saturday than Friday, the same can be said of Kintz. Wallace's stage presence is to be commended and he was worthy of his role. Kintz had everything he needed to put over the character of J. Sloan Henshaw, but he slipped up on his manifestations of weakness for flattery. However, he went over with the audience. I like to look like the kind of chap who would produce slapstick comedy, he acted like that kind of chap—what more could one wish? Burke, his assistant (M. C. Young) played right into his hands and did a good piece of work.

Miss K. M. Bourstis deserves praise, even though she had but one line. What she had to do was shed tears, and she shed 'em. Miss E. E. Gillouf, as Beulah Baxter, the star with whom Merton had fallen in love by virtue of her acting, did an impressive parade across the stage. Wilson, the superb Palmalee, lived his part. He was the best man in the cast, as far as being naturally suited for his character. His bored air was not affected; he's built that way. Once, in an exit line, he overdid it and went flat.

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N. R. Schade, in spite of his trouble with the new-spacer, did a good job as Mr. Patterson; Miss G. A. Smiley, as his wife, could not have been better. L. C. Eddy, known to the audience as Mr. Walberg, could have made a better performance than he did; he's promising, but he must lose his fear of the footlights.

Purposely, I have withheld mention of the two principals until now. Miss Oehme and D. M. Buchanan were almost perfect. Missed lines once or twice should not even be mentioned, but I do it to show that a missed cue or the correcting of a name put a new scratch on the most polished performance.

No one could have played Merton as well as Buchanan. He looked his part, he acted so well that I might even suspect he's a Merton every day. These aren't phrases to express the exactness with which Buchanan did his work—he was simply the most finished male character on the boards. Buchanan, I think, will have a hard time getting out of the character. He has created the character almost too well.

Now to Miss Oehme. Here is the star of the play. Every minute she spoke, she played up to the person to whom she was speaking. She has the qualifications for a great little actress in character studies: poise, enunciation, understanding, facial expression. Besides, she has a perfect disregard for the faces beyond the footlights. She knows of them nothing save that they must see and hear her. To get behind the scenes there were five changes of scenery. These, of course, took up a great deal of time, and the stage hands must be commended for their swiftness in snatching the lapses in open action. The orchestra, too, played a big part in keeping the audience from getting nervous.

Only one thing about the scenery, and that, no doubt, was unavoidable. Does a man who carries a lunch basket live in such a "scrumptious" home as that which was shown for the last episode?

To the Players—"Great!" To L. V. Mason—"Congratulations!"

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## International Stock Exposition Commends Penn State Exhibits

Penn State exhibits won an exceptional number of major prizes in the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago which ended Saturday, it was announced yesterday.

In the swine classes, the College won three first prizes, the reserve grand championship on pen of barrows, and the championship on pen of Berkshire barrows.

Sheep winners placed the Nittany institution head and shoulders above the other agricultural colleges in this particular part of the livestock classic. Seven blue ribbons for the best placings in as many classes were won by Penn State flock members. In addition the College was awarded the yearling crossbred wether championship, the Southdown wether championship, the wether reserve grand championship, and the wether grand championship. The spectacle of two individuals owned by the same exhibitor competing for the grand championship was never before seen in the International show rings.

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