

# Penn State Collegian

Published semi-weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College, in the best interests of the College, the students, faculty, alumni and friends.

### THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

W. P. REED '27 President  
H. G. WOMBLEY '27 Vice-President  
S. R. ROBB '27 Treasurer

### THE EDITORIAL STAFF

W. P. REED '27 Editor-in-Chief  
H. G. WOMBLEY '27 Assistant Editor  
G. F. FISHER '27 Managing Editor  
FRANCES L. FORBES '27 Women's Editor

### NEWS EDITORS

E. M. Atkinson '23 W. Lord, Jr. '28  
R. Kaplan '23 P. R. Smaltz '23

### WOMEN'S NEWS EDITORS

Katherine Holbrook '23 Mildred A. Webb '25  
Lillian Bell '23

### THE BUSINESS STAFF

S. R. ROBB '27 Business Manager  
E. C. WHARTON '27 Advertising Manager  
F. N. WEDDER '27 Circulation Manager

### ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGERS

J. Ferguson '23 R. B. Kibborn '29  
C. F. Flinn '23 W. J. McLaughlin '23

All copy for Tuesday's issue must be in the office by twelve o'clock Sunday night, and for Friday's issue, by twelve o'clock Wednesday night. Checks and money orders naming a payee other than "The Penn State Collegian" will not be accepted for accounts due this newspaper.

Subscription price: \$2.50, payable before November 1, 1926. Entered at the Postoffice, State College, Pa., as second-class matter. Office: State Printing and Publishing Co. Building, State College, Pa. Telephone: 222-W. Bell. Office Hours: 11:00 a. m. to 12:00 m.; 4:00 to 5:00 p. m.

News Editor This Issue: P. R. Smaltz

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1927

### FOR THE GLORY OF GAMMA NU

The open season for fraternity initiation is at hand. The period that has long been awaited by both the fraternity man and the pledge (with dread by the latter) is now in progress. More and more this "Hell Week," "Week of Torture," "Rough-house Week" or whatever you may call it, is proving that it has long outlived its usefulness, if it ever was useful.

Not long after the freshman accepted the pledge button of his choice, stories, vivid in their horror, began circulating through the halls of dear old Gamma Nu concerning the pains and tortures that would have to be survived by each neophyte before he had earned the right to wear the "badge." Longing was expressed for the "good old days" when initiations were really that—when trips to the hospital went hand in hand with the initiation activities.

Gruesome as all the stories are, it is a fact that there has been an appreciable decrease in the intensity of the preliminary initiation. Years ago, casualties were not uncommon during the height of the week's activity. (Which may explain the reason for the present modification.) Freshman hazing at college belongs to the mauve decade; rough-house week is well on the way. When that objectionable feature to fraternity initiations is removed the Greeks will have taken a great step forward.

Were it not for tradition and custom it is likely that the "rough" part would be eliminated pronto from the initiation of the candidate. THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN advances the opinion that "Hell Week" is carrying over into civilization of the barbaric custom of torturing young men as a test of physical prowess before admission to tribal war councils." The editorial concludes with "The need for this particular form of examination is hard to discover in the present circumstances."

While tradition and custom play a large factor in the retention of the objectionable rough-house week, revenge is not far behind. Those who have endured the hardships, pains and humiliations of "Hell Week" are anxious to "get back" at the next class. The truth hurts, the truth is sometimes uncomplimentary, but it is the truth just the same.

Does dear old Gamma Nu intend to impress its greatness upon the unfortunate neophyte by subjecting him to humiliations that are childish, to the paddle wielded when the neophyte is blindfolded? A fraternity that follows such a practice—and the majority do—unknowingly lowers its prestige. Usually, instead of having a beneficial effect upon the freshman, "bringing him down a peg" as it were, it creates a lack of discipline and respect.

"A fraternity is supposed, by those who know, to be a men's organization with serious motives and purposes behind it, and the 'rough-house' is mere child's play. It is said that pledges expect it—but one does not always get what he expects in college. One of the worst features of the farce is the fact that it cheapens the real ritual. The freshman is very likely to put one on a par with the other and to consider the pledges that he takes as a huge joke."

Like many another unworthy custom which has been discarded, tradition is its only justification for existence. If, then, horseplay initiation can claim no basic merits, there should be no place for it in fraternity life. The freshman is a man, to be treated as a man and physical abuse is nothing short of insulting to the man of spirit and self-respect.

### DOWN GRADE

Some sunny day when the student administrative committee decides to make out a list of grievances and present them to the Board of Trustees, ninety-nine and forty four hundredths per cent of the student body will wish that one item will be included—the other fifty-sixth hundredths per cent will have "flunked out." With ridiculous gravity—if it is allowable to achieve an adjective which history makes inevitable—the psychological quantity in Penn State's soapy contributions to the illuminati will fervently hope (patiently sigh) that the Board of Trustees, or the Registration department, or the college deans, or whoever

attends to such matters, will see to it that within at least two weeks after the final examinations the grades are posted. Then those students who do not receive the battle's results by special message may feast their eyes upon their victory.

It is a victory. Of course, if one judges from the present evaluation of grades, his enthusiasm is apt to be dampened. Apparently there is no weight placed upon the successful rebuff of final examinations. (For one must take the faculty at its word. Those members of it who keep tabs on a student's grades regard the student's success in the examination crucible so gravely that they do not see fit to inform him whether he has made a C or a B or an A until after the Easter holidays—quite a long ways off from the chill February winds.)

There is of course, always the possibility that the powers may know what is best for the student. But the student, after honing, borrowing, or actually passing the course on his merits, feels that after having withstood the finals for another semester, he is justified in throwing his cap, or dink, or hook in the air, and shouting roughly "We have met the enemy and they are ours." On the whole, we believe that in this case the students are right. The practice of posting grades is not an unusual one. In fact, it is the habit in most colleges. In Columbia university for example, the marks are released four days after the finals. The degree of the grade might prove embarrassing in certain quarters, but after all who has created the discomfiting situation? And there would be no need to post the grades of less miserables, for these receive special correspondence, penned personally by their deans. Moreover, if posting the grades is too inconvenient a process, they can be mailed to students with no more expense than now.

The release of the grades within two weeks after the last examination would, perhaps, create a problem for the registrar and possibly for the school deans. But then, are not the grades recorded anyway; and are they not given to the deans; and are not those deans—or their secretaries—pestered to death by indomitable students? As we see it there is no apparent excuse for refusing to give the students the benefit of a doubt. For the faculty it means the saving of a good deal of time and patience, the removal of obvious annoyances; for the students it signifies a boon.

### The Bullosopher's Chair

"The little red school house is better than the little red citizen." And I suppose, the dirty red Engineering buildings, and the other red buildings on the campus are better than having nothing at all red on the campus.

That is a rather extravagant man, Smithers—far fetched, and likely to draw a sneer from the weakest of the collegiate array of wise-crackers. In fact, it is no wonder that we have such a large "Ag" school—if you consider the superfluity of wisecracks in our midst, that is ONE thing the college man performs with efficiency—he has that highly developed sense of Discrepancy which enables him to divest his own distorted humor upon others (judging by Froth) with the unflinching and happy faculty of seeing no edge and no point in his companion's re-ripostition!

But—to return to the beginning—which is always a wise procedure for the moralist who gets tangled in his own attack, you know, a reformer must ATTACK, Smithers. He can't help himself—it's his curse from the gods! You see it happened this way: Bacchus had a lot of relations—but they were all within his jurisdiction. Well, a certain distant cousin ran out of festival supplies, and proceeded to improve his Imperial relative to lend him a drink. Bacchus refused—because he was giving a party for Venus that night. Whereupon Nitwitus, which was the cousin's name, uninvited to the party, and without the wine and woman for one of his own—whipped in the green-eyed monster and became the first reformer! Whereat Bacchus became peeved and commanded his poor relation to go "set" on a tack. And so to this day, Nitwitus, the patron devil of modern reformers has set upon attack. Which so rile all ungodly collegians that all Nitwiti remain set—and the game goes on just the same.

Sometimes, however, when poor Nitwitus tires of acting on the tact of godless people, and upon the tax of godly people—he sets upon an ale, perhaps, or as piker—is related through piker, he feels more comfortable thereupon.

But to return to the beginning—we contend that Shakespeare came from Lebanon; and that he was an Englishman! For if he had not put the "t" in it, he would never have achieved immortality.

And that brings us to the matter of things behind read—which we started with. Boys don't like "t" nowadays—and thus they don't read Shakespeare, because modern literature leaves the "t" out of its immortality. Besides, the common vogue "teed" has nothing to do with Shakespeare!

All of which, Smithers, is very nitwittish—and I hope someone else fills the column before the editor sees this.

### The Military Ball Committee

ANNOUNCES  
A Change of  
Orchestra  
WHITEY KAUFMAN

AND HIS  
Victor Recording Orchestra  
Have been engaged in place  
of Dan Gregory

## Dean Watts Portrays Oriental Student Life

This is the second of a series of three letters which Dean R. L. Watts, of the School of Agriculture, is writing exclusively for the Collegian from China where he served on a special American educational commission to comply with Chinese regulations. Herein Dean Watts portrays a scene or two from oriental student life.

Soon after the Commission arrived at Canton, we conferred with the Alumni Council of Lingnan University. We found all the members very earnest Christian gentlemen, eager to assist the commission in every possible way.

There was absolute agreement among the alumni and faculty that the government requirements for registration should be met fully and as promptly as possible. To this end, a new board of directors, the majority of whom would be Chinese, had to be organized. In about two weeks from the date of our arrival, this task was accomplished. All members of the board but one (and he was in Europe) were present for the first meeting. The membership included the chief executive of the Chinese National Board of Education, the acting mayor of Canton who is a devoted Christian, the Chief Engineer of Canton who is an alumnus of Lingnan University, a wealthy Chinese gentleman who is president of ten banks in China, San Francisco and New York, a prominent attorney, school principals, business men, and a Chinese lady, Mrs. I. C. Folk, who is one of the most prominent women of Canton. The Alumnae of Penn State will be pleased to know that Mrs. Folk was the second person nominated for membership on the board and that she also was made a member of the executive committee. As Doctor Edmunds remarked, "It is a Board of Directors worthy of any American College or University."

Associate President Cheung, who visited State College about a year ago, was elected President of the University. Though the management of the institution will be in the hands of Chinese administrators, the Founders or Board of Trustees in America will continue to function and cooperate by supplying the usual number of foreign teachers. The alumni, faculty, and students of the University expressed great confidence in the new administrative adjustments and the continued success of the institution.

We were most delighted by the attitude and spirit of the college students. A finer or more earnest body of young men and women cannot be found anywhere. The "Penn State

spirit" must have been planted there years ago by "Daddy" Groff. Though they take their work seriously, they also know how to play and how to get the most out of athletics.

For several years the students have been holding sunset meetings every Sunday evening. It was our privilege to attend one of these meetings and though I could not understand a word, for the service was in Chinese, it was most impressive. The student who addressed the meeting spoke on leadership, a very appropriate theme at this time when the whole Republic needs the services of devoted, well educated Christian leaders. Most significant changes are occurring almost daily in this country with four times as many people as there are in the United States, and great indeed are the opportunities for trained leadership.

R. L. WATTS,  
(To be continued.)

### Niebuhr To Hold Last Session This Evening

(Continued from first page)

phets and some say a second John, the Baptist" and to the other was answered, "Thou art the Messiah." "However," said the Detroit clergyman, "Jesus feared to be called the Messiah because people would then expect more than was his earthly mission."

Think Like God, Not Man  
What the Savior really desired was a kingdom of love upon earth. That desire prompted the rebuke to Peter's vow of fidelity in which he answered, "Peter, thou thinkest like man and not like God."  
The logic of forgiveness, according to the Reverend Niebuhr, is more powerful than the instinct of vengeance, especially when the divine equation, which states "to return evil for evil merely multiplies evil" is taken into consideration.

Answers Queries  
An open discussion between Rev. Niebuhr and the members of the Interfraternity council took place in the afternoon. In reply to a question which gave the modern college man's view of property rather than culture,

### EQUITABLE LIFE OF IOWA

J. A. (Pop) GARRISON  
AGENT  
Phone 325-W 121 Burrows St.

For Service, Comfort and Economy Burn the Genuine  
Anita Punxsutawney  
Rusty Coal  
For Sale at  
PHIL FOSTER COAL YARD  
Phone 114-M

Nittany Lion Bracelets  
\$1.00  
at  
CRABTREE'S  
Allen Street

Elinor Glyn Defined "IT"  
We Will Soon Show "IT"  
COMING!

HAROLD P. GRIFFITH  
Special Representative  
New York  
Life Insurance Co.  
Phone 294-W STATE COLLEGE, PA.

YEAR ROUND CLOTH  
Pretty New Prints 45¢ Yard  
Guaranteed Fast Colors  
EGOLF'S

Newest in  
LADIES' DRESSES AND SILKS  
FYE'S  
West College Avenue

he stated that cultural conversation was almost never heard among students of today. For instance, very few undergraduates hold conferences in which political issues of the day are discussed.

A contrast between so-called modern book review sermons and the old fashioned revival was dismissed because of the wide difference of subjects and conditions surrounding them.

Youth and His Problems  
As for the promotion of culture and the development of morals in student groups, the main remedy is to express oneself correctly and adhere to the moral principles which are part of our training. It is possible to express one's own opinion and still not be a Bolshevik.

Then came what might be called the most-discussed phase of the discussion in which modern youth with its evils and advantages were placed under fire. To quote Rev. Niebuhr, "Religious education today is better than it was twenty-five years ago."

Women's Freedom Affects Morals  
"Modern youth is critical and therefore cares not for the deceit and hypocrisy which marked the moral practices of our forefathers, and is itself affected seriously by the breaking up of the old family ties. The increasing freedom of women has also brought about a looser sense of moral justice than was the case of a so-called wholesome frankness."

"Moreover, modern man is living without standards, being luxury-and-sex-obsessed. Both nationalism and sex have become religions to the man of today."

"Have Too Much Leisure"  
"One of the greatest perils of modern civilization is the uneducated expert. That is, many men specialize to such an extent that their general cultural background is left out entirely and, although they are of service in their particular field of endeavor, they do not have the attributes of the successful citizen."

"However, it is the civilization that is at fault and not the individual or the university. We are becoming a luxury-loving nation, increasing our efficiency to such a point that we will eventually have too much leisure."

Carmeleles  
39<sup>C</sup> LB  
SPECIAL THIS WEEK  
CANDYLAND

"You can't do anything without money," a materialist principle, was the last theory discussed at that conference.

"Master I will follow whosoever thou goest!" was the text of the sermon at the union gathering of all local churches in the Auditorium Sunday evening. Under this topic the unity of principle which underlies the various denominations was brought out.

Jesus' "Follow me," the exhortation to one who desired to wait until his father had been buried, was not as terse or hard-hearted command as might be surmised. Instead it was an illustration of the sacrifice to be made by one who would follow in the footsteps of the Master.

Last night Reverend Niebuhr's topic was "Spiritual Light in a Specular Civilization." After his speech, the Detroit clergyman spent a short time in answering various questions which members of the audience had to ask concerning the subject of his mission.

Cathaum  
THEATRE  
AND  
Nittany Theatre  
(Matinee Daily at Cathaum)

TUESDAY—  
Mae Murray in  
"ALTARS OF DESIRE"

TUESDAY—Nittany—  
Buster Keaton in  
"THE GENERAL"

WEDNESDAY—  
All Star Cast in  
Gene Stratton Porter's  
"THE MAGIC GARDEN"

THURSDAY—  
Marie Prevost, Charles Ray in  
"GETTING GERTIE'S GARTER"

FRIDAY—  
Owen Moore, Joan Crawford in  
"THE TAXI DANCER"

STARK BROS.  
Haberdashers

TODAY—  
Is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday  
But--Why Worry  
Buy Your Building Supplies  
Where Quality Is Emphasized  
AND  
Satisfaction Is Guaranteed  
HOMAN & HAFER  
Material that doesn't come back for owners who do  
Bell 40-M N. Sparks St.

It's the Cut of Your Clothes That Counts  
College Men Say  
Society Brand Make Exactly  
What They Want  
MEN in college know what they want to the last fraction of an inch. They say the clothes we have here have everything; the style lines, the quality, the colors, the patterns, and best of all, economical prices.  
Ask to See Our \$25 Tuxedo  
M. FROMM  
Opposite Front Campus