

# Penn State Collegian

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

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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 name other than "The Penn State Collegian" will not be accepted for accounts due this newspaper.

Managing Editor This Issue.....H. E. Hoffman  
News Editor This Issue.....L. M. Stifter

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1927

### THE AGE OF TREASON

Some one has said it is about time that the students of Penn State, especially those in the Engineering, Agriculture and Mining Schools, start thinking of contributing manuscripts to the OLD MAIN BELL. There is no use in appealing to the Liberal Arts students. These moribund individuals rank not above their engineering comrades as is generally supposed, but far, far below them, even lower, culturally speaking, than the education students. The engineering students at least know their calculus, the agricultural men know their onions, and the education mongers after several semesters here know just exactly what to avoid teaching when their turn comes. But the Liberal Artist? Is there a lower mortal here than he, is there a student more base, more neglectful of his opportunities in college? He seeks, nine times out of ten (though we can give no accurate figures, neither can the registrar) the easiest courses in the catalogue and the most convenient, he avoids the few scholars in the faculty as if they were plague-stricken pedants, and he casts away the chances of expressing his ideas with the same pleasure that he discards an old sock with a hole in it.

What, as a historian would say, is the reason for this? Why has the contribution of opinions become the custom not of the student of arts and letters but of the soccer player? Certainly the explanation that one's teachers know nothing about Eugene O'Neill is no excuse for the pupil braving similar lackadaisicalness, surely the fact that one's instructor may be little more than a bore is no reason for the student becoming his competitor in this field. And to cap all this the same unwilling student will persist semester after semester in scheduling courses under the some worthless perspiring instructors, thus, one room may be crowded by sixty or seventy students while the much more desirable room across the corridor may hold but ten. And, what is worse, the faculty seems to enjoy this. It was only a year ago that courses in Greek and Latin literature in translation carried a meagre two credits toward graduation, since then there has been an increase to three and the progress of scholarship has been proved, and scholarship itself has been vindicated.

Why the School of Liberal Arts does not place Greek and Latin literature to mention just one course—on the same plane with Freshman English Composition—unquestionably the poorest and at once the most shameless course in college—nobody including the professors—seems to know. The instructors in the one course are, at the very least, twelve hundred times as learned as the ignoramuses teaching freshmen the ways and means of the comma in the other. From what we have experienced, and observed the way to teach grammar and composition is to teach the student grammar and composition; the prevailing method is to see that the freshman attends each class on penalty of lunking him if he doesn't and to raise the roof if he comes a minute late. The good work of instruction is carried on still further by taking diligent care that the freshman does not whisper to the girl with the pink dress, next to him.

Is it any wonder that by the time the Liberal Artist graduates he knows as little about contemporary letters as does his freshman scrub-prof? The situation has reached such a point that any serious with a knowledge of rudimentary principles can squeeze an A out of his course in English by merely exercising the judicious use of a semi-colon. When such a state of affairs has come about, when co-eds can skillfully utter themselves into the honor roll, in line, when any one can enter this institution and anyone can leave it, the time has arrived when the words Liberal Arts should be removed from our catalogues, and Business Stenography substituted.

### MENCKEN, THE PATRIOT

Mencken for President! The suggestion is not Mencken's (nor Doctor Pattee's), but judging from the amount of space the Baltimore hermit has been devoting to Americanism in the most recent Bichloride of Mercury, one suspects that the editor is eagerly waiting for the Democrats to heave Al Smith from the donkey's rump and to offer Mencken the mount, so that he can have the pleasure of spurning the nomination. For Mencken has so thoroughly smashed the arguments of the drays that for one to whisper Prohibition is, in spite of the existence of the Amendment, to confess himself an illiterate and tyrannical booby shouting that the constitution—especially the Bill of Rights of which the citizenry of '76 were so fond—is another scrap of paper.

Now Mencken has been accused of all sorts of things, including pederasty, lunacy and gout, but no one has yet intimated that Mencken, even in his most dubious moments, is not learned; and the suspicion grows that he knows what he is talking about. Indeed, after reading his citations of the absolute antagonism of the Eighteenth Amendment and the Fourth not to mention the Second, Seventh and Tenth,

professors have been heard to lament over their cups that it is too bad Mencken was born in Baltimore and not in Boston, and that his editorial had to appear in the American Mercury instead of the Congressional Record.

And so with all due respect to the fact that freshmen are supposed to read Harper's and that the Mercury is obtainable at the Library only by sworn affidavits proving one is no longer in his swaddling clothes—with all due respect to these pleasant customs—may we respectfully call to the attention of our readers the editorial in the current issue? It is introduced by a paragraph from the Constitution (which we do not reprint for fear of prosecution) that legalizes the calling of a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution. The wicked Mencken suggests that the state legislators actually call such a convention! This in the face of the fact that such a thing has never been done, and hence would be against tradition and hence, since Mencken's seditious utterances are by some miracle not punishable by law, we humbly suggest that he be duly executed by the public hangman, Judge Thayer himself, for murder in the first degree. It should be childishly simple to prove that many good Christian folk, seduced by his sophistries, have believed—and acted upon that belief—that they really had certain liberties granted in the Constitution—of which the citizenry of '76 were so fond, and, so acting, have naturally been shot down by the constabulary in performance of its lawful duty.

John Erskine's attempt to make Prohibition and Christianity incompatible has influenced the people in no way other than to bulge John's pocket, and to make some wonder what happened while Wilson was preening himself in Europe. Because Saul of Tarsus drank wine has proved too thin an argument to convince people that it is becomingly Christian-like for them to indulge. Religion, they have said, is all right in its place but aside from that its place is not in steins. Moreover, Mr Erskine's nose is too red. But Mr Mencken's nose is quite decorously colored and his reasoning, in addition, is sound. Quite logically he shows us that no officer of the law has the right to search our property without a warrant, and equitably logically that a bootlegger cannot be justly tried for the same offense by the county, the state, and the federal courts and to prove this Mencken trows the Constitution in our faces.

The proposition that Prohibition is at odds with the law is by no means new, strange as it may seem. Thus Andrew Jackson is frequently represented as carrying a revolver up his sleeve and a pint of malt julep in his back pocket, and Calhoun and Webster are often shown retiring to the Capitol bar until Clay was finished speaking, when Clay would join them. But for Mencken as editor to intimate such flippancies is treason he should appear in toga instead of in shirt sleeves. His ancestors should have yelled in Faneuil Hall instead of in Heidelberg. Even as it is the alumni of various colleges are staggering to the libraries in an effort to justify that quaint custom by which one proves his devotion to his Alma Mater by getting drunk and Supreme Court Justices have been seen searching for the musty volumes which contain the Constitution, with the intention of reading it some day.

### ON MAGAZINES

In two months there will be published the first issue of the OLD MAIN BELL, known in certain circles, as that literary magazine of Penn State. The OLD MAIN BELL has had a rather hard time of it its subscription list is not over-large, its policy, perhaps is not the best, its material is frequently not of the highest—some have gone so far as to say that the faculty has had too much to do with the magazine to make it a good one, but this statement has been properly rebuked, even by swaddlers. And when all is said, the OLD MAIN BELL represents the best literary work not only of its contributors, but of the entire Penn State student body. To several this may be a blow.

The truth of the matter is that the OLD MAIN BELL has had too many fingers in it and that too few of these have belonged to the students themselves, but to censure the faculty for this is ridiculous, to bark at them is to complain against those who are sustaining it. The faculty however, can do still more for the publication by selecting the most interesting essays its students write and offering them as manuscripts. On one dim occasion we suggested that freshmen be required to purchase a certain orange-colored magazine; and to our surprise, the suggestion was taken over, even to the color of the magazine. So we hope that by judicious selection the faculty can help the editors and that some day freshmen will be reading Penn State's magazine, as well as Harpers

# Soon

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unusual

### How Penn State Opponents Fared

Lebanon Valley 3	Mt. St. Mary 13
Gettysburg 0	W. Maryland 11
Buclnell 0	Army 34
Pennsylvania 6	Navy 12
Syracuse 0	Nebraska 21
Lafayette 6	PENN STATE 40
Geo. Washington 7	Ursinus 0
New York U 0	Ursinus 0
Pittsburgh 52	Allegheny 0

### New Ag Booklet Lists Revision in Courses

Announcing changes in several courses the agriculture correspondence department is mailing twenty thousand catalogues to former students of the School of Agriculture. The purpose of the booklet lists the increase in numbers of the men taking correspondence courses in agriculture and also enumerates the courses that have been revised and rewritten.

### Article in Penn State Engineer Gets Mention

"The Art of Lithography," an article written by Joseph Etter '28, was accorded honorable mention at the convention of the Engineering College Magazines Association, of which the Penn State Engineer is a member. Etter's theme appeared in the May issue. The convention was held at Columbus, Ohio, from October twentieth to the twenty-second, the Ohio State Engineer being the host.

### "Y" Launches Drive For Student Contributions

(Continued from first page)  
moment student and faculty organizations in the College  
Freshman Secretary

For three years Penn State has had only a part time freshman secretary, W. C. Calhoun '25, now doing graduate work at Yale. An attempt will be made with sufficient funds to create a full time freshman secretary this year at an estimated cost of twelve hundred dollars. At present Reverend Faus now at Post Matilda, meets with the freshmen three days a week and with the passage of this appropriation will be installed as full time official.

### Other Needs

About five hundred dollars will be required for the freshman reception and other work during the year, while two hundred and fifty dollars must be spent in keeping up the circulating library of the best religious books and current magazines.

Annually the "Y" at a cost of a thousand dollars or more obtains some

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of the most noted men in the fields of religion and social science to speak before the student body. This expense will also be met by the drive. Since this is the year of the Quadrennial convention and also of the Eaglesmers conference another five hundred dollars has been added to the campaign quota. Secretary Kitcher desires to make it clear that the money used by the delegates to the convention is given in the form of loans which must be paid back on a certain date.

To Replace "Y" Ford  
"Dinah" the official "Y" Ford which was used for Sunday school work and for many conferences and conventions for six years is now in bad shape and will require at least five hundred dollars to repair or replace it. This car has saved a great deal of money for the organization when sending delegates to conventions since it is a cheaper mode of travel than by rail. Each year the "Y" gives five hundred dollars for the education of the negro children of the South. Work among the negroes was begun by J. H. McGrew a graduate of Penn State and is now carried on by the Y. M. C. A.

### L. A. Deans Convene For Three-Day Parley

(Continued from first page)

work including vocational and curricular guidance, moral courses, or approved examinations, improvement of service courses, proper selection of teachers and increasing scholastic standards will be discussed. Several entertainment features will add to the interest of the convention. President R. D. Heizer will be the guest of honor at one of the luncheons.

The visiting deans and the heads of the Liberal Arts departments and the deans of the schools of the College will be entertained at a dinner Friday evening, at the Centre Hills Country Club. Most of the entertainments will also be held at the country club. If the present convention is a success, it will be made an annual affair and the membership will be enlarged according to Dean Stoddart. This group is considered a nucleus for future growth.

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### Four Classes Meet in Hill and Dale Setto

(Continued from first page)

George Offenhauser, Louis Lee, Olive Helfrich and Art Bass took the race with a perfect score. Last year they repeated their perfect victory. Dick Detweiler and Reikers from the freshman squad are expected to push the veterans to the limit in the race tomorrow and may break up the hitherto unbeaten quintet. Both Reikers and Detweiler have shown plenty of speed and power in the golf course grand of late and supplemented by Nichols, Arntz, Flennege and Moore may force the champions to falter in their winning stride.

Varsity Trials on Saturday  
The six-mile run Saturday afternoon for varsity candidates will form a tentative idea of the team which will endeavor to retain last year's intercollegiate win in New York when the seven 1926 varsity men competed in the ICIA meet to gain victory over Harvard, Penn. N. Y. U., Columbia and other leading institutions of the East. Seven freshman runners will also run on the twenty-first of November in Van Corlandt Park.

Numerical Requirements Given  
In order to win numericals a contestant must fulfill the following conditions: either be one of the first five men to cross the finish line or one of the first five men on the winning team.

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"CHIANG"  
Paramount Comedy

WEDNESDAY—  
Olive Borden, Lawrence Gray in  
"PAJAMAS"  
Paramount Comedy

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY—  
The Most Startling Picture of the Age  
"METROPOLIS"  
Pathe Comedy

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—  
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"FIREMEN, SAVE MY CHILD"  
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