

# 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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Managing Editor This Issue—L. H. Bell, Jr.  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1928.

### LARGE OR SMALL?

There was a noticeable resentment among readers of the recent issue of Froth, in that number dedicated to a parody of Time. Bitter feeling was expressed by not a few, threats were actually heard against the editors of the humorous magazine that Penn State is proud to call its own. The threats, the bitter feeling, the misgivings were occasioned by those members of the faculty and student body who were slighted, whose names did not appear in any portion of what was by far the most creditable piece of endeavor ever to come from the pens of any Froth group. The disgruntled ones are insisting that they should not have been overlooked and that Froth was guilty of showing partiality. They wanted publicity too, they didn't get it, and so the natural thing for them to do was to resent having been excluded from the gallery of notables.

The fortunate ones who were recognized by the lun-creators were so elated that they purchased several copies of the magazine for the purpose, as they themselves would willingly tell you, of letting out-of-town friends in on the good time. There were a few, however, who failed even to favor their most intimate friends with a smile as they read what the student body, through the Froth, thought of them. Did those gloom lovers, composing a very small minority, think themselves too important, too dignified to be subjected to a little fun that is to be found in the pages of the current issue of Froth? Or was it that they thought the truth about themselves was being unfolded? Do they feel themselves insecure in their present positions now that their foibles have been exposed?

If there is anyone who raises his voice in protest about words that were typed about himself, that person is merely proving to be a character that is indeed small; anyone that is guilty of disliking his "write-up," and is protesting about it, is in reality telling the world that he is not suited to hold the particular College position for which a pay-check is being drawn.

The people who really have a legitimate right to harbor resentment are those who were forgotten by the Froth editors. Everyone will sympathize with those who were ignored, realizing that their claims of "Favoritism" are perfectly justified. The Collegian joins hands with this group, but has no sympathy with the other.

### VALUE RECEIVED

About this time of year dissatisfaction swells in the average collegiate breast. There is an urge to get out of school and get to work. "I'm not learning anything, and why should I stick around here," is the usual outburst. Opinions as to the correct answer to the problem vary.

What, in truth, does a student get out of his four years spent at college? If he studies his lessons faithfully, he learns what one should know to be considered "cultured." He finds out how to compute stresses and strains for engineering problems. He learns that there is a machine which will save the labor of fifty men in the harvesting of wheat. He learns that "there can be no psychosis without neurosis."

The average cost of a diploma is \$6,000. A worthy statistician recently estimated the worth of this same diploma as \$70,000. If we were feeling in a humorous mood we might comment on the well-known fact that there is no Santa Claus and that such a bargain is beyond the pale of human comprehension—and belief.

A student (in deference to our professors let us call him that) is assigned his lessons and, let us say, he learns them. Tennyson once said, "Knowledge comes but Wisdom lingers." But who expects a college man to be wise save in the slang meaning? He is supposed to gather "friends who will help him after he gets out of college," he is supposed to tuck away somewhere within himself the rudiments and power to recognize culture; he is supposed to develop himself into a man in the years spent away from home and mother. It is perhaps true that he will become a great lawyer, a marvelous artist or a shrewd business man by means of his "higher education," but when one stops to consider the fact that down through the ages have come world leaders in all lines who were either self-educated or minus to a horrible degree in that omnipotent thing, a college education, well, what's the use, why not get started in one's life work immediately?

Public libraries contain all the text books commonly used in college courses—except a few, for which let us praise Heaven—and there are numberless methods by which the man who wishes to gain education, that is, a real education, may do so. In this manner he eliminates all the studies which the ordinary college provides for "mental discipline" and gets just exactly what he wants and needs. The manner of study is discipline in itself.

No less an authority than the Rev. W. Warren Giles, pastor of the First Reformed Church of East Orange, New Jersey, recently quoted figures that claimed but one college graduate out of every 173 succeeds in attaining eminence in life, or rather, success. In addition, he stated that but one high school graduate out of 180,000 is named successful. There is, it must be conceded, a difference in opinion

as to what the word "success" implies. One man strives for a million dollars while another for a home, wife and family. It must also be remembered that the above figures were taken from a prominent volume that lists the supposed notables of these United States. Space in it may be bought for a nominal sum. Is this a worthy authority on the number of men who have attained success?

Opinions vary on the value of a college education as it is now assimilated. Would there be colleges and universities without the present social pressure? Opinions vary.

### UNCALLED-FOR TRANSITION

Habits and customs characteristic of a small institution, however ingrained in its existence they may be, are subject to modification if not absolute alteration as that institution undergoes a perfectly normal growth. So it is with Penn State, and it is not with many pangs of regret that the student body recalls Poster Night or even the more recent custom of juniors wearing headpieces. Even now, a conscientious observer can detect a gradual process of transformation in the daily practices of the undergraduates. A little slip here, a bit of laxity there, a new idea—and there is a scarcely noticeable transition which becomes quite apparent only when complete.

Such responses to ever-changing conditions are as inevitable to a college as are similar reactions in the field of business or even in social circles. The picturesque but decidedly inconvenient process of trading by barter is the signpost of a forgotten age; also unheard of now is that select "Four Hundred" which formerly upheld the social aristocracy of New York. They both submitted to one of the two possible alternatives, "progress or stagnation." In neither case can the original remain intact.

Even the most prejudiced observer could not place Penn State as on the road to stagnation. Rather, it is on the crest of the all-sweeping wave of progress that the College finds itself and accompanying its forward movement are inevitable transitions in the traditions and customs of the College. The pity of the whole procedure is that with the departure of the undesirable, go some of the more cherished ideals and practices.

Most noticeable among the practices which formerly characterized Penn State and which now seem headed for the discard is the Penn State "Hello." It is that when fellow student encountered fellow student on the campus, a cheery greeting would be exchanged. Lamentable is the state of affairs now prevalent, where freshmen not only disregard each other with impunity, but even pass upperclassmen with utter indifference. The question of maintaining the "hello" is one that rests entirely with those who have already graduated from the ranks of the yearlings. It is up to them to observe the custom themselves and to insist upon the freshmen doing likewise. Unless they do, the highly commendable "hello" will continue on its way toward a perfect fade-out.

H. P. M.

### The Bullosopher's Chair

Smithers: Wasn't Sunday a beautiful day, though Bullosopher?

"Beautiful! How could such a pleasant adjective enter your mind and associate with such a disagreeable thought as impending finals? Ugh! I've had a bitter taste in my mouth ever since I started thinking about it." Smithers: Nevertheless, I enjoyed the invasion of balmy weather and took advantage of it by taking a long walk, the first in weeks.

"Well, we have something in common. Being a lover of Nature myself, I paced a few short squares about the campus and through Locust Lane." Smithers: Beautiful section, isn't it?

"Bah! I heard one of the most disgusting and resentful conceits poured in my ear as I wandered through the Lane."

Smithers: I know there's more coming, Bullosopher. Interferently sings aren't even being thought of right now.

"Correct. A group of brothers who aren't entirely in sympathy with the Christian religion were assembled in the third floor of their house, yelling, singing, crying 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic,' one of America's most sacred hymns, in complete and intended discord, inserting inharmonious notes in a most vociferous manner. I felt like heaving a brick."

Smithers: Which house was it? (Whisper)

Smithers: Well, perhaps they could move out beyond the last outpost where they wouldn't disturb the neighbors again.

Always—  
be mindful of

The Corner  
Unusual

## "OEDIPUS REX"

An Analytical Review by Dr. Robert E. Dengler, Acting Head of Classical Language Department

When the curtain opens on the Players' production next Saturday evening, the Penn State community will have the rare opportunity of seeing one of the world's greatest dramas. The Oedipus Tyrannus is regarded as the greatest single Greek tragedy by no less a critic than Aristotle in the "Poetics," a marvelous essay, by the way, for those who would comprehend the Attic drama. Aristotle, living after the close of the great age and possessing all the plays, most of which are now lost, available before him, and having one of history's most analytical minds, studies in the "Poetics" the essential features of a tragedy, of tragic situation and character. His illustrations alone show that our play is continually in his mind.

The "Tragic Chance" The writer has heard expressed among his colleagues the modern feeling that the situation of Oedipus is not truly tragic, in that there is no real opportunity for the tragic choice. This is to misread Sophocles and to misunderstand the hellenic point of view. The tragedy lies not in the murder and incest, gripping and grievous parts of the play though they be; the tragedy, as Aristotle showed, and as modern hellenists see, consists in the stubborn pride and intellectual self-will and self-sufficiency of Oedipus in presuming during the plague to try to escape the doom which he is confident cannot be his own and thus self. To be sure, as the play goes on, which Sophocles was the acknowledged master, shows itself in that every eye—except Oedipus—players and spectators alike know just what the situation is.

One cannot help feeling for Oedipus, even though he is clearly paying for that "hubris" (insolence, partiality against the gods), and it is interesting to note that years after, at the close of his own long life, Sophocles again returns to treat the tragic king, now a blind beggar, in the "Oedipus at Colonus," a play in which the woeful old man is shown to be himself redeemed through suffering and to be made in his death a kind of savior of the folk.

Curse of Oedipus The tragedy to be presented by the Penn State Players is the product of the mature genius of Sophocles, probably, though the date is unknown, of about 420 B. C. In it the King of Thebes—the Greeks meant by Trypanus a long not of the regular descent—a discovered in anxiety over a plague which is devastating the city. They seek the person responsible for the divine wrath seen in the plague, and awful curses are uttered by Oedipus against the guilty sinner. An older poet tells the King "thou art the man," Oedipus then upon bitterly accuses his brother-in-law, Creon, of intriguing to note that years after, at the close of his own long life, Sophocles again returns to treat the tragic king, now a blind beggar, in the "Oedipus at Colonus," a play in which the woeful old man is shown to be himself redeemed through suffering and to be made in his death a kind of savior of the folk.

This very briefly is the outline of the story, but the marvelous weaving of main and subordinate plots, the keying up of the crisis, the sustained

interest of the increasing revelations through the masterful dialog, cannot be analyzed; they must be heard and felt.

Maidens Are Substituted In Sophocles the chorus consisted of Theban elders, who reflect the dignity and tradition of the city's glorious past. Mr. Cloetigh, with an eye for beauty, no doubt justifiable, has substituted a chorus of young maidens. It will be interesting to observe what effect this change will have upon the presentation of Sophocles' point of view.

The lyrics of this play are among the most lovely in Greek poetry in the present production the words of the lyrics are the verse translations of Dr. Gilbert Murray of Oxford, while the dialog is taken from the prose version of Richard Vavonvase, the greatest Sophoclean student the world has known.

The character of Oedipus will be played by Mr. Reker, who will be remembered as the splendid Messenger of last year's Medea, and we are assured that the rest of the cast will ably support him. To miss this marvellous drama, given by excellent personnel, under the able direction of Mr. Cloetigh, would be to lose one of the choicest intellectual and aesthetic delights ever offered on this campus.

ROBERT E. DENGLER

### Prof. Henning To Talk On Breeding of Sheep

"Sharp Production in Great Britain" will be the title of Prof. William L. Henning's address to the New England Sheep and Wool Growers' Association on January twenty-fifth. This is the second agricultural talk planned this month for an audience away from the College, the first, treating "By-Products Utilization in Swine Feeding" having been given at the New Jersey Agricultural college by Prof. Mansell F. Grimes.

### Blue Band May Parade At Templar's Conclave

Reading's Knight Templar have formally invited Penn State's Blue Band to lead the parade at the annual conclave which will be held at the Pretzel City early in May, according to Wilfred O. Thompson, bandmaster. No definite arrangements have been made but should the trip be effected concerts will be given en route.

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### WPSC PLANS ATTRACTIVE BROADCASTING PROGRAM

"Yesterday Sure-fire Remedies," "Vitamins of Today" Are Themes of Talks

With musical numbers by individual students and interesting speakers engaged, the regular weekday and Wednesday night WPSC radio program should prove unusually attractive this week. The week also marks the reopening of the Army remote control station for the broadcasting of the wrestling meet Saturday afternoon.

Speakers for the agricultural program tonight include Professor R. A. Dutcher, head of the agricultural and biological chemistry department with another of his talks on vitamins. A. K. Anderson, an associate professor at the same department, and associate professor C. A. Seig, of the landscape architectural department, complete the list.

"Ancient Quack Medicine" will be an important talk for tomorrow night by Dr. Robert E. Dengler, professor of Greek, in which he will tell of "sure fire" remedies of ancient times. Engineering extension activities will be held by Professor John O. Keller, representative, and announcements of the coming Summer Session completes the half hour.

For the entertainment features this week Donald D. Henry, announcer in charge of musical programs has included violin selections by William J. Stronell '28, tonight and a musical program by a local orchestra tomorrow night.

### MEMBERS OF FACULTY ATTEND ANNUAL STATE FARM PRODUCTS SHOW

Members of the faculty of Penn State and other persons connected with the College will take prominent parts in the State Farm Products Show which opens today at Harris-

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### CANDYLAND

burg and continues until Friday of this week.

Among those from Penn State who will speak at the show are President Ralph D. Hetzel and Ralph L. Watts, Dean of the School of Agriculture, Professors Gimms, Shigley and Bentley from the Animal Husbandry department are numbered among those who will judge stock.

The show is under the direction of the State Farm Products Show Commission of which Denn Watts is a member.

### PROF. ROHRBECK TELLS POULTRYMEN VALUE OF NEWS AND ADVERTISING

Edwin H. Rohrbek of the agricultural extension department spoke to the members of the Poultry Club Thursday on the value of news writing and advertising to the agriculturist. The theme of his talk was that the results of experiments and general work could be better written and used more advantageously.

The club began preparations for the Sixth Annual Pennsylvania State Standard Production Poultry Show to be held next October with the election of officers for the show. Tom P. Whitaker '29, was elected secretary and editor of the Premium List and Wayne M. Haintransf '30, Treasurer of the show.

### Cathaum AND Nittany Theatre

(Matinee Daily at 2:00)

Notes—Nittany open every night except Monday.

TUESDAY—

Gary Cooper, Evelyn Brent, Noah Berry, William Powell in "BEAU SABREUR"

Special Prices: adults 50c, children 25c

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY—

Rod LaRoque, Phyllis Haver in "THE FIGHTING EAGLE"

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY—

Leatrice Joy in "THE ANGEL OF BROADWAY"

THURSDAY and FRIDAY—

Milton Sills in Peter B. Kyne's "THE VALLEY OF GIANTS"

FRIDAY and SATURDAY—

Syd Chaplin in "THE MISSING LINK"

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