

# 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.  
News Editor This Issue.....H. P. Mileham

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1928

### IT IS TO DANCE

In due course of time the world revolves about its well-known axis. A day has passed. In due course of time the moon waxes and wanes, and waxes again. A month has passed. In due course of time the sun completes a turn about its customary orbit. A year has passed. The Sophomore Hop is here again and each undergraduate, if the gods were propitious (or the parents willing, rather), will glide and guide his lady fair over the waxen floors of the Armory to the accompanying strains and jazzed refrains of Red Nichol's famous artists. Under the rays of the moon (if any) and beneath a canopy of colors, numberless freshmen will be initiated into the rites of a college function. Transported on the wings of love, Lyone and Bellefonte busses, countless maidens from everywhere will invade the students' sanctum.

All ye fortunate maids, we welcome you and hope you will enjoy it too.

L. M.

### THE THIRD ALARM

Penn State has a body of students fully as human as that of any other college in these United States. Aware of an impending danger which might cause serious calamity in Old Main at any moment, the students are content to rest in apparently easy unconcern, hoping that good fortune will abide forever. Usually a drastic example serves to stir men to a realization of their own perilous plight; it might even breathe a silent torrid plea for precaution.

Such an example was the recent fire at Villanova College which claimed as its toll more than \$2,500,000 worth of property, caused temporary suspension of classes and brought an overabundance of parental worry to hundreds of concerned families. It was a costly lesson. Yet the Villanova conflagration stimulated no precaution at Penn State, who may be the sorry successor to such calamity. Students still flip their cigarette "butts" carelessly about Old Main, a structure even more susceptible to the ravaging of flames than was the Villanova college building.

Some day Old Main may be devoured by flames. This intimation has appeared in these columns on two previous occasions. Twice it has been utterly ignored. Student initiative is dormant. Campus organizations are debating trivial questions, proposing silly reforms while a vital issue is treated with sad indifference. Surely students would back an organized move to prohibit smoking in the Old Main structure. Certainly they would sacrifice a cigarette or two each day to prevent possible loss of property and life.

If such a step is not taken by student legislation, its natural source, the Administration could easily start the move. Smoking is forbidden in the Armory and in the Schwab Auditorium and the ruling is strictly obeyed. What makes Old Main ineligible?

—L. H. B., Jr.

### MAKING THE GRADE

Year after year hundreds of thousands of student pilgrims trek to their worshipping spot at the great College Shrine. Some seek knowledge and educational training, some seek social polish and the glamor of collegiate life. Others are content to thrive upon grades—and nothing more.

Even as time goes on and enlightenment in history, mathematics and science takes hold, the grade fanatics fail to realize that their chosen idol is a false god and that their worship has been in vain. So, in utter ignorance, they slave over their studies with one eye on a diploma and the other on an "A," "3," "05," or whatever symbol the college might use to indicate a high standing. Such students, addressees of high average fever, have been known to go weeping before a professor for a few more points, to lower themselves in order to elevate their scholastic standing, to run their eyes that they "may see more clearly," to labor, toil, slave, grind—and for what? For a stroke of a professor's pen, for a "2" or a "3" when a "1" (also passing) would suffice and secure just as comfortable a seat on the graduation platform, for self-satisfaction; parental praise or possibly a word of commendation.

The college is no longer considered the place for study alone. It is a temple for education in life. A college moulds men, not human machines. It is a place for stimulating initiative and reason, not mere "padding" or building body and mind, not for running the day may even come to pass when students will major—legitimately—in extra-curricular activities. And here is a phase of a college education which has proven just as valuable to students as the basic courses of study.

In view of this, the present system of grading seems foolish and useless, even though it is deemed quite necessary. Many believe it is destined to undergo revision, that it will be so simplified as to consist of merely a passing and a flunking grade. And why not? Post-graduate life will be just that—success or failure. The lawyer will win his case or lose it, the doctor will save his patient or the worst will happen, the business man will succeed or fail. Why not give the student early experience in the conditions of his proposed life?

Under the present system, student attention is fastened so intensely upon the omnipotent grade that he often loses sight of education, study, knowledge and their purposes. He is too concerned with different degrees of success when they are so often meaningless. Since student—as well as man—is interested primarily in whether he succeeds or whether he fails, why not grade him accordingly?

—L. H. B., Jr.

## The Bullosopher's Chair

Smithers: Enter, Bullosopher, and make yourself welcome. After you have done that, tell me all the news.

"Guess what's on my mind?"

Smithers: Easy! The Interfraternity conference, of course.

"Right the first time. And what did you think of it, Smithers, a flop or a success?"

Smithers: Don't be foolish, Bullosopher. It's the best thing that has struck this man's college for many, many years. Every one says so. Students who came to sneer stayed to applaud; those who had polished their most penetrating and critical pieces are now polishing laudatory phrases in preparation for solicitors of expert opinion. Everyone is pleased and happily expecting a re-appearance of the 1928 Interfraternity Council's oilspring next year.

"And of course, the speakers!"

Smithers: Pardon my haste, but the speakers were eloquent, interesting for a change, wise in fraternity methods and problems. Why, Doctor Cattell's speech alone was enough to make the conference a crowning success. Words fail to express my opinion of that man.

"Check! I agree that the speakers were marvelous and that everyone lent unbound co-operation. It was a grand success. There have been several interesting discussions. Only a day or two ago, several well-known members in professional ranks were ereled in a bull session discussing the conference. It was thoroughly hashed over, adversely and favorably. The entire fraternity problem was discussed, suggestions offered, innovations and changes considered. Yet all these words and ideas—and profs sometimes strike good ones—may go for naught, wasted in hot-pardon—thin air. That should not be. Probably the ideas would be valuable for next year."

Smithers: I believe that.

"Of the pedagogues even ventured the prediction that the harmony will never prevail until the individual fraternities face their problems with the truth, that is, their personal problems until they treat them as such." Smithers: As fraternity men?

"As true philosophers."

### LAST CALL

## VALENTINES

The Day  
Feb. 14th

Valentines  
for Mother and Sweetheart

KEELER'S  
Cathaum Theatre Building

## FACULTY MEMBERS LAUD FRATERNITIES FOR PARLEY HERE

Dean Warnock Declares Confab Help for Discussion of House Problems

LUNCHEONS PROVE AID TO CHAPTER OFFICERS

Doctors Shepardson and Cattell Deliver Addresses During Recent Conference

That the interfraternity conference held here Sunday, Monday and Tuesday was a success, is the consensus of the opinions gleaned from various College officials who were closely connected with the five events of the conference.

Dean Arthur R. Warnock, in an interview yesterday, declared that the conference was entirely successful in accomplishing its purpose, which was to bring the chapter leaders together for a discussion of their problems with the assistance of older advisors.

"The value of the conference will be only temporary, however," the Dean of Men pointed out, "unless the Penn State chapters follow up the discussions with improvements in house practices."

Everyone consulted agreed that the luncheons held at various fraternity houses at 1:30 p. m. Monday to Tuesday to bring together the chapter officials were the most important factor in furthering the purpose of the conference.

### Fire Insurance EUGENE H. LEDERER

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### Lured by Aroma of Neighbor's Tobacco

Boston, Mass., April 21, 1927  
Larus & Bro. Co., Richmond, Va.  
Gentlemen:  
This morning I had a smoking adventure worth recording.  
Next to me in the smoking car a gentleman was puffing his pipe contentedly. I was not smoking at the moment, and the aroma of his tobacco intrigued me exceedingly. For twelve years I had smoked Edgeworth without being tempted by any other brand, but the fragrance emanating from the pipe of the gentleman beside me was so agreeable that I could not resist the temptation to speak of it.  
"That is wonderfully fragrant tobacco you have there," I remarked.  
"Would you mind telling me the name of it?"  
"It is Edgeworth," he answered.  
We then congratulated each other upon our mutual good taste, and I decided that I would continue to use his brand and mine.  
Sincerely yours,  
S. H.

Edgeworth  
Extra High Grade  
Smoking Tobacco

## CONFER HONORS ON MID-YEAR STUDENTS

Doctor Shepardson Addresses Eighty-Four Graduates On Leadership

JUDGE H. W. MITCHELL PRESIDES AT EXERCISES

Eighty-four students received bachelor and advanced degrees at Penn State's fifteenth mid-year commencement exercises Tuesday night in the Auditorium. Judge Howard W. Mitchell, of the Board of Trustees presided, in the absence of President Ralph D. Hatzel, who was unable to attend because of a death in the family. Judge Mitchell conferred the degrees upon the graduates.

Following the academic procession, which opened the exercises, Wilmer J. Kitchen, secretary of the Y. M. C. A., delivered the invocation. John E. Dickson '28, a member of the Varsity quartet, sang a ballad solo, substituting for Miss Ada J. Romig.



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Dr. Francis W. Shepardson, of Chicago, delivered the address to the graduating class on "Types of Leadership." Dr. Shepardson is a doctor of philosophy and law and he is vice-president of the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity and national president of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Forty of the members of the graduating class were candidates for the degree of bachelor of science, while thirty-four were candidates for the degree of bachelor of arts. Ten students were candidates for advanced degrees.

James E. Snyder received the highest academic honor, doctor of philosophy degree.

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VALENTINE'S DAY, FEB. 14



FLOWERS!



STATE COLLEGE FLORAL SHOPPE