

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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The Penn State COLLEGIAN welcomes communications on any subject of campus interest. All letters must bear the name of the sender. Anonymous communications will be directed to the editor. The editor does not wish his or her name in connection with the letter. This fact should be so indicated and a sum of plume must accompany the communication. The editor reserves the right to reject all communications that are deemed unfit for publication. The COLLEGIAN assumes no responsibility for sentiments expressed in the Letter Box.

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Managing Editor This Issue: L. H. Bell, Jr.
News Editor This Issue: L. Mitsufer

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1928

YOUR OPINION IS DESIRED

A committee, created by Student Council, is planning to undertake an up-to-date revision of Penn State customs if such is found necessary. In the process, useless customs will be abandoned, ineffective ones will be altered or discarded and new rules and scraps will doubtless be introduced. In other words, customs—all of them—are on trial, some facing probable exile; others destined to see reform.

If some changes are made, as undoubtedly they should be, immediately will come the long, expected moan of the dissenters lamenting the fact that freshmen are not handled brutally as they were when the front campus wall embraced scores of limp and unconscious bodies after a Co-op skirmish. That was years ago—before the war. Penn State has outgrown such habits. Time, progress, civilization, growth are all factors in shaping anew the customs and methods of modern man. They must be considered even in respect to college regulations such as ours. Penn State's great educational machine is gradually ascending the intellectual slope to her promised position in the realm of great institutions. All cargo that is superfluous because it is less valuable to the College than the ultimate goal she hopes to attain, must be cast out, a sacrifice to retrogression. Trivial and unimportant customs are doomed immediately. More will follow.

In spite of the sanity, practicability and all that is in favor of the proposed revision, these dissenters will wail the dolorous, age-old lament, "Customs are going to the dogs!" What of it, as long as the College itself does not fall victim to the voracious appetite of the proverbial canines? Oftimes these rebels have good sound reasons for objecting. At least, they have rights as students and the privilege of appeal. And they do appeal in many cases with all the vigor and vociferousness of a prize-fight announcer in an open-air arena. But to whom? To the roommate, usually; to their classroom neighbors or to the fraternity brothers across the table, none of whom has influence enough to do anything about it or to seek redress personally. So the words are wasted and the agitator feels that a great wrong has been done because his principles are violated or his objections unheeded.

The committee on customs is facing a ticklish task. All sorts of criticisms are bound to come—too late. The group would welcome student or faculty suggestions with gratitude. This newspaper would only too willingly print communications concerning customs revision so that student sentiment may receive fair consideration before the Council reformers have completed their task.

If there is the least student interest rampant concerning this subject, such will be evinced by letters upholding either side of the question.

L. H. B., Jr.

THE ALL-IMPRESSIVE PADDLE

The path to brotherhood is not strewn with daisies. Pledges who have braved the ordeals of initiation week will readily understand that tacks, not roses or velvet, are cast under the feet of the aspirants. For nearly seven days and nights, chiefly nights, the initiates must obey orders exactly, must submit to humiliations, must do strange things. Onlookers will laugh. They enjoy this annual entertainment.

One of the seven nights will be devoted exclusively to ceremonies modelled after the Inquisition

tortures, but harmless, of course. The "night of terror" is commonly known as "informal." The exact method of administering the ordeals of the evening is shrouded in a cloak of mystery, but the following morning reveals many of the new brethren who prefer to take nourishment while standing.

Everyone, however, including the active brothers as well as the initiates, welcomes the end of the ceremonies and begins to wonder whether the benefits derived therefrom were worth the time and energy that have been expended. Impressiveness is, of course, one of the chief aims of any Greek-letter initiation. The neophytes must become aware of the solemnity of joining the ranks of brotherhood and love. The solemnity and impressiveness of some of the antics may be questioned.

"Hell Week," as it is popularly called in some colleges, is often a test of the brothers as well as the pledges. The initiated have absolute power over the incoming group and the way in which they exercise that power reveals them at their worst. They may, often and do, indulge in barbarisms that, under ordinary circumstances, would have been beneath them. They often take an unholy delight in taunting and angering their future brothers in an uncivilized manner. They are not themselves.

That fraternity initiations are unnecessarily brutal and somewhat ridiculous is the main argument against the informal part of the ceremony. The formal procedure is unquestionably solemn, impressive, effective. The advance of civilization and culture may see the "rough stuff" go the way of the whipping post and the scaffold.

Letter Box

Editor, Collegian, State College, Pa.

Dear Sir: Enclosed herewith are two letters drafted by the Seranton Penn State Alumni Association, the originals of which were sent to Messrs. Hetzel and Bezdek.

We believe that they might be of interest to you. If you care to publish them it is entirely satisfactory to us.

Very truly yours,
CHARLES E. MEGARGEL, '26,
Seranton Penn State Alumni Ass'n Secretary

Mr. Hugo Bezdek, Director of Physical Education, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.
Dear "Boy":

At a recent meeting of the Seranton Penn State Alumni Association it was unanimously agreed that the Secretary communicate with you and convey the feelings of the members of the Association with regard to Athletics in general at Penn State since the inauguration of your regime.

The current success of the Present football team is of course extremely pleasing to all Penn State men, but to those of the Alumni who keep in touch with all athletics at State College, the success of all our teams is gratifying and the meanness of the Association feel that the credit for your good record is largely due to you and your policies. Not only do we feel that you are responsible for the good record of our athletic teams, but we are also of the opinion that the improved conditions for the pursuing of the sport and the building-up of character of the members of State teams and the Student Body in general is traceable largely to your major spots, because they involve skill, grit, courage, and work.

Furthermore, all full-blooded Americans are deeply interested in these sports. These three sports are called and classified major sports because they involve interest.

What is it that determines a major sport at Penn State? Surely, it is not the interest displayed by the student body. We all admit that football, baseball, and track deserve to be major spots, because they involve skill, grit, courage, and work. Furthermore, all full-blooded Americans are deeply interested in these sports.

These three sports are called and classified major sports because they involve interest.

You can be sure that we, as an Association, will be ready to lend any aid that we possibly can which will tend to improve conditions in athletics at Penn State.

Very truly yours,
Seranton Penn State Alumni Ass'n



Personal Adornment

In the way of fine jewelry is found here in a delightful array from which to choose Solitaires, dinner rings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches. You will find them all here, and so reasonably priced that there is no reason for not gratifying your wishes.

HANN & O'NEIL
East College Avenue

Mr. Ralph D. Hetzel, President, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

Dear Mr. Hetzel:

At a recent meeting of the Seranton Penn State Alumni Association it was the pleasure of those present that the Secretary communicate with you and express the sentiment of the Association with regard to your policies and fine work in administering the needs of the College.

It was indeed gratifying to read of your success in obtaining the largest appropriation Penn State has ever had. We feel, more than ever, that Penn State is coming into its own; and more than that, we are glad that you are at the helm to guide her safely to success.

We are also pleased with the interest you have been showing in athletics at Penn State. We believe, as you do, that strong, clean, and thoroughly sportsmanlike teams go hand in hand with the other college work. We firmly believe in the policy of building up human character, whether the teams be winning or losing.

May we also say that we here in Seranton are a Penn State Organization through and through. We realize that our College needs a strong Alumni Association and pledge our support to you in any way whereby we can help to better Penn State, and by doing so, increase the usefulness of the organization of which we are members.

Please accept our kindest wishes for your success. We are sure that you will guide Penn State into a new era of prosperity and service.

Very truly yours,
Seranton Penn State Alumni Ass'n

Editor, Collegian
Dear Sir:

What is it that determines a major sport at Penn State? Surely, it is not the interest displayed by the student body. We all admit that football, baseball, and track deserve to be major spots, because they involve skill, grit, courage, and work. Furthermore, all full-blooded Americans are deeply interested in these sports.

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Now, is there not as much interest shown in our boxing meets? Do we not applaud and worship our heroes of the squared circle? Is there ever any standing room in the Almy when our leather experts are scheduled to fill the air with encased fists? Why is it? Because every red-blooded man and woman of Penn State knows that boxing is the true test of ability and courage. It awakens their primitive instinct which is slowly dying in American youth. Boxing is a true test of courage and the ability to fight back when against the wall.

Boxing is an active, exciting sport that keeps us on our toes and tingling with excitement. Does not every fan at the boxing meet get a real thrill? Is there a dead moment at the boxing meet?

How eager were the fans when our team invaded Annapolis to sink the Navy last week? Really such loyalty and interest in a sport make it deserving to be a major sport. Has not our Intercollegiate boxing team given Penn State a name in the sporting world?

Do not our glove pushers go through enough arduous training to qualify for a major spot letter? Ask some of the boys making weight for the coming meet and you will understand for yourself.

Does not boxing rate as a true American pastime? Is it next to baseball? Is that not enough?

Boxing involves skill, training, coordination of eye and muscle, courage, confidence and the ability to think quickly. Is this not enough to qualify it as a major sport?

Let us boost the sport and show we appreciate our boxing champions.

—Sport Lover

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Christen, S. C.
February 10, 1927

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Gentlemen:
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I have used Edgeworth Ready Rubbed and Plug Slice for over five years, in all climates and under all conditions, and I find it always the same. It is always mellow and moist, and its genuine flavor lasts. There is no bite or parch in Edgeworth, and the quality, whether you buy it in small or large quantities, is always perfect.

Thanks to the manufacturers for their wonderful product, and I hope that Edgeworth can always be obtained by the undersigned.

Guy B. Beatty
Edgeworth
Extra High Grade
Smoking Tobacco

EIGHT MATCHES REMAIN IN GREEK MAT TOURNAMENT

In the climinations of the interfraternity wrestling tourney, Delta Pi defeated Tau Phi Delta and Kappa Delta Rho overcame Phi Kappa Tau on Tuesday evening.

The match between Alpha Gamma Rho and Pi Kappa Alpha, which was scheduled for Tuesday evening, was postponed. Last night Alpha Chi Rho and Kappa Sigma, Beta Kappa Psi, Alpha Chi Sigma, and Tau Kappa Epsilon and Theta Kappa Phi were slated as opponents.

Eight matches remain before the final encounter. All contestants will be required to weigh in between four and five o'clock on the evening the wrestle is to take the seat.



AND
Nittany Theatre
(Matinee Daily at 2:00)

FRIDAY—Cathaum—
Ronald Colman, Belle Bennett, Lois Moran in
"STELLA DALLAS"

SATURDAY—Cathaum—
Richard Dix, Joel Sterling in
"SPORTING GOODS"

FRIDAY and SATURDAY—Nittany
Pola Negri, Jean Harlow in
"THE SECRET HOUR"

MONDAY and TUESDAY—
Matinee Both Days
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Special Prices: adults 50c children 25c
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