

Penn State Collegian

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News Editor This Issue—L. Mitsifer

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1928

OUR VAUNTED FREEDOM

We, of the present age, pride ourselves upon our intellectual freedom. We laugh at the prejudices, inhibitions, restrictions, prohibitions of the past. As the chief claim to a highly advanced state of civilization we boast of the right and ability to choose between good and evil, to express our feelings and convictions, however contrary they may be to the accepted, "official" beliefs on the topic, without fear of the King or guillotine. Literature has its free verse, its futuristic drama, its "Elmer Gantry's." Social reformers, including Madame Elnor Glyn, prate about free love, companionate marriage and a new moral code. Psychologists and educators are struggling to popularize the open-minded attitude toward all things, to exterminate narrowness. Even the gentlemen of the pulpit are showing a tendency away from sectarianism.

But the boasting is mere vanity. Blinded by the superiority complex, we fail to notice a sly serpent, the serpent of censorship, emerging from the sea to entwine his coils about the throat of individual freedom. The reaction against unrestricted expression, caused by the growth of nationalism, Puritanism, hatred, or what you will, is gradually increasing in volume and power.

Censorship and prohibitions, in all their manifestations, have been instituted either to cover up weaknesses or prevent unjustified propaganda. Movie censorship professes to protect and strengthen the morals of the people by allowing nothing obscene to appear on the screen. Obviously, the people whose tastes are sufficiently depraved to support cinema immorality are sufficient in number to warrant restrictions. Some contend that the removal of the blue pencil from the silver screen would bring movie-lovers to the theatre in even greater throngs and drive the decent producers into bankruptcy, but it is just possible that the American public would soon tire of the novelty and refuse to patronize the lower class of films.

Mayor William Hale Thompson made a strong bid for the title of "The Great American Ass" by hallyhooning about the extermination of pro-British literary and historical works in order to further "Americanism." The rotund Chicagoan evidently believed that the position of the United States in history was weak enough to demand suppression of arguments on the English side in order to instill patriotism into the hearts of our growing youth. His program, if adopted, would have only increased prejudice and hatred with war as the possible result. Fortunately, Mayor Thompson was properly laughed at.

Recently the French Censorship Commission took action to protect their "national morals and traditions" through severe censorship of motion pictures. Under the new decree announced by Minister of Education Herriot, cinemas reflecting unfavorably on France, no matter where shown, may cause all the producer's films to be barred from the theaters of that country. Although France has probably been misrepresented on the screen more often than any other nation, the measure seems a bit harsh and suggests that she may have secrets that would influence the people of other countries against her.

Dictator Mussolini's strict and successful suppression of events unfavorable to his interests and Fascism is another notable example of the growing tendency toward censorship. A word in print that casts a shadow of doubt upon the success of Benito's regime is a death warrant to the reporter responsible for that word. Il Duce's creed is "what the people don't know won't hurt Mussolini." The Italian Dictator has weaknesses to conceal by his rigid press censorship.

Even the restrictions on college publications seem to be increasing. Frequently, one reads of the expulsion of editors for expressing a thought contrary to the conventional. Revelations, whether they be fact or fiction, which react unfavorably upon the official viewpoint, invariably rouse the powers that be into ire and action. Colleges, as well as nations, have secrets that had best be kept in the dark.

TO THE MINORITY

Our widely-read comic periodicals, our college humorous publications and many of our current cartoons depict the typical collegian as attired in a bulging coonskin, topped by an oddly-shaped hat and set off by an omnipresent hipflask. The picture may be conjured up at will; as often as it is, it provokes the wrath and disgust of the true college student. Truly enough, a small percentage of the students do wear fur coats, but, more often than not, the fur is a product of that animal which in fable furnishes the substance of that other useful commodity, the diploma. However, it is not with the over-sized coat that we choose to quarrel. Neither is it with the battered felt hat or derby.

It is the over-pictured hip flask that gives rise to justified ire on the part of the average college student. For, to be considered a purveyor or drinker of alcoholic beverages in these times is to be ranked as among those who are more or less mentally incompetent. Under present-day conditions, it is frequently suicidal to partake of the Bacchanal refreshment. Whether it is because of restrictions imposed by ordinary common sense, or whether it is accounted for by deeply inculcated principles of moral conduct, it is nevertheless true that drinking is not widespread in the college world.

Of course, there are always those who constitute the proverbial exception. Typically, their conduct at certain college social functions is beyond the pale of good taste, to say the least. If they would only realize of their own accord that their actions do not meet with the approval of their fellows, they might curb their taste for liquor or at least not openly parade it. If they could understand that in the light of the existing situation of preparing and selling alcohol, they are defying ill-health, frequently death in satisfying their cravings, they would probably abstain.

Regrettable is the fact that occasionally the law must step in and exercise its power in controlling the deplorable situation. Since a word to the wise may be valued sufficient, it is hoped that the collegiate drink purveyors and imbibers (few in number as they may be) will of themselves provide a fitting solution to the obnoxious problem of collegiate drinking and that no drastic measures will need to be taken by those in authority.

Thoughts of Others

UNCONDITIONED PUNISHMENT

Insanity as a motive for murder is coming to a ridiculous plea on the part of lawyers who are defending confessed murderers. The majority of outstanding murders in the last few years have invariably been followed by an appeal for mercy because of the insanity of the murderer. Some cases have succeeded but not it would seem that the insanity plea could no longer carry much weight.

Even if the murderer is insane at the time of the killing, he is often mentally normal at other times and commits the crime because he is not capable of controlling his actions. Murders which have later been revealed as premeditated have also been attempted to be explained on the plea of insanity.

Murders may be insane but if they are to be freed from punishment because of this mental condition, it would not be difficult to commit any crime and by a few unaccountable actions any person could be "proved" insane and absolved from the crime. Adults, especially, who perform inhuman acts and then attempt to save themselves by some ruse should be shown no mercy.

Whether or not capital punishment is the proper punishment need not be considered in this connection, because

it is the end of a murder and does not play an important part in the method in which attempts are made to avoid conviction. Whatever punishment is decided upon for murders should certainly be so governed that those pleading for mercy on the insanity ruse should not escape the punishment due any murderer whether or not he committed the act because of mental derangement.—Syracuse Daily Orange

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

With registration and rushing over, extra-curricular activities began to take considerable prominence on the college stage. Notices announcing the opportunities for new blood in all activities are appearing and new blood is responding.

Extra-curricular activities may very easily be dangerous and harmful to the student. Over-emphasis of an activity in preference to the curricular requirements inevitably bring the misguided student to grief when graduate times come around. Another danger appears with the college man who enters an activity with ulterior motives, who works only for selfish ends.

It is not difficult to compromise the undesirable attributes of extra-curricular activity with its advantages. When it is realized that work in any of the many channels of undergraduates should be purely educational and nothing more, then all adverse criticism will ipso facto melt away. Furthermore, when it is ascertained that extra-curricular al-

legiance is not only an educational move but also one totally secondary to the university courses, then will disappear all the adverse criticisms of the undergraduates' staunchest friends. Extra-curricular activity is educational. It develops initiative and character, requires in any phase of life.—The De Paw.

Fraternities Engage In Boxing Semi-Finals

The semi-finals of the inter-fraternity boxing eliminations were held last night when Theta Kappa Phi met Phi Delta Theta, and Delta Sigma Phi encountered Phi Sigma Kappa. Last week in the only meet which was held, Phi Sigma Kappa won over Beta Lambda Sigma. On Friday night, the final bout will be held between last night's winners.

Mat Team Triumphs Over Orangemen, 17-6

(Continued from first page)

person of Novak. Displaying what was less than his usual skill and agility, Ted lost the bout to the Orangemen, the time advantage being two minutes, four seconds. Ace, who re-entered the lists for the Lion team last week against Lafayette, secured another win when he threw the Orange welterweight con-

tender, Crowe, in eight minutes, twenty-six seconds. Packard who came next in line maintained his reputation for success on the mat when he defeated Syracuse's middleweight, Cordisco, with a clocking of one minute, fifty-one seconds. At one time during the bout it seemed as if the Lion 160-pounder had his opponent practically pinned to the mat.

Hollobaugh, Cranmer Win. In the light-heavyweight mix-up, Hollough scored three more points for the Nittany grapplers when he defeated Jameson in what was a closely contested tilt. His time advantage was one minute, fourteen seconds. Cranmer, who stepped out on collegiate mats for the second time in his experience, triumphed over Freeman, husky Hillman Cranmer won by a time advantage of five minutes, thirty-five seconds.

FOR SALE—Automobile—1927 Pontiac Coach. Excellent condition. Loks and runs like new. Fully equipped. Will sacrifice if sold at once. Cash or terms. 124 North Patterson street, phone 251. tt

Cathaum Theatre

Nittany Theatre

(Matinee Daily at 2:00)
TUESDAY—Douglas Fairbanks as "THE GAUCHO"
Special Prices: adults 70c, children 25c
TUESDAY—Nittany—Betty Compson in "CHEATING CHEATERS"
WEDNESDAY—Dorothy Mackall, Jack Muthall in "LADIES' NIGHT IN A TURKISH BATH"
THURSDAY and FRIDAY—George Sidney, J. Farrell MacDonald in "THE COLLINS AND KELLYS IN PARIS"
FRIDAY and SATURDAY—Molly O'Day, Alec Francis in Harold Bell Wright's "THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS"

STARK BROS. Haberdashers
In The University Manner
CATHAUM THEATRE BUILDING

What Shakespeare says about Coca-Cola

Drink **Coca-Cola**
Delicious and Refreshing

"Nature's above art in that respect"

King Lear may have looked like a walking florist shop, but he certainly talked a full-meaning headline for this Coca-Cola ad.

A pure drink of natural flavors—produced before the day of synthetic and artificial drinks, and still made from the same pure products of nature.

The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta, Ga.

8 million a day — IT HAD TO BE GOOD TO GET WHERE IT IS

A. H. ASHLEY

"I have been in the Penn State Collegian, taking subjects necessary to me in preparation for a commission in the United States Army. At the time, I was a member of the Michigan National Guard. Before my college work was over, we were called on duty in the topography of Northern Michigan. Here, I served as first lieutenant in charge of police work in Keweenaw County.

This duty, lasted about a year. Upon my return a very close friend explained to me the exceptional opportunities offered by the Kresge Company. While this proposition was entirely out of my line of work it sounded so interesting that I decided to give it a trial.

Starting as a stockman in the small store in Zanesville, Ohio, was made to come down and many times I felt that I had made a serious mistake. Now, looking back over my past twelve years with the Kresge Company, I can see how fortunate I was to have made the change. I have no regrets to offer and I am positive that, from a secretary's standpoint, I am very far the good. From a social or business standpoint the same thing is true.

During the World War I was a Major of Field Artillery in the 2nd Division, and I was offered a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. If I would remain in Germany, so as to take over the many properties of the Kresge Company for home, I refused to do so as I was anxious to get back to the Kresge Company and find my place in a store again."

A. H. ASHLEY.

NOTE: Since Mr. Ashley uses the above in his regional address, promotion to the big St. Paul store.

Football Star Wins Success with Kresge!

AMONG the many college graduates who have won success with the S. S. Kresge Company is A. H. Ashley, former football star and four letter man of M. S. C.

Like other men who have found their life's work with this organization, Ashley started in at the very bottom. He was led, step by step, through the various positions in our stores until he was thoroughly acquainted with every branch of our business. Then he was given a store of his own to manage—a dignified, well-paying position which carries with it a share in the profits earned.

We now have a few opportunities open for college men to do just what Ashley did—start at the bottom and work their way to the top. If you are interested in a future where hard work brings its own reward, write to our personnel department at once. We will gladly arrange a meeting with a graduate of your own college who has already won success with the Kresge organization.

PERSONNEL DEPT. 1

S. S. KRESGE CO

5-10-25c STORES 25c. to \$1.00 STORES.
KRESGE DETROIT BUILDING

Charter House For University Men

A smartly styled model that is correct in every detail.

It is tailored at Fashion Park

MONTGOMERY'S
at Penn State