

# 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 - H. E. Hoffman  
News Editor This Issue - L. H. Bell, Jr.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1928

### DO RESTRICTIONS STRENGTHEN?

The rule banning automobiles at college, while comparatively well-observed and accepted at Penn State, has roused a great deal of furor at institutions where the prohibition has just gone into effect. Recently the undergraduates of Michigan and Illinois have protested violently and furiously as they were forced to dispense with the conveniences of their automobiles.

In a recent magazine article Dean Max McCann of Lehigh discussed the subject with insight and fairness. The presence of automobiles on the college campus, he says, is objected to "on the ground of public safety and in the interest of scholarship." Dean McCann easily disposes of the first argument against student cars by showing the utter foolishness of the assumption that a young man, merely because he is in college, is any more reckless or unintelligent in his driving than any other youth of the same age, and therefore no more of a menace to the public safety.

The contention that automobiles lower the standard of scholarship, however, is more important and difficult to consider. The lure of the open road and the itch for a steering wheel is certainly much greater than the attraction for the textbook. The fact remains that there are students who would waste the same amount of time whether they had cars or not and that there are an infinite number of ways of whiling away the hours other than in an automobile. The authorities, then, should ban all distractions along with the automotive nuisance.

Considering the matter further, one finds that the final result of all restrictions upon amusements that take the undergraduate away from his studies is to keep in college a large group of loafers who came to an institution of "higher learning" merely to add four or five years to their period of uselessness. The conventional comeback for all prohibitions that narrow individual liberties is the statement that college students are old enough to know better, to be able to take care of themselves. To him who uses this argument, the authorities reply, "You are an idealist. It would be very nice if undergraduates could be entrusted with freedom of action, but they can't. They must be whipped along the path to education and learning."

Unfortunately if all restrictions were suddenly removed, a large number would flunk out, but the college would be vastly improved by the loss of them. Why all this sentimentalism about keeping students in college? It seems that, in view of the present crowded condition of the higher institutions of learning, the controlling powers would welcome any means of eliminating those who do not appreciate the benefits offered them. If such a view were taken and prohibitive rules removed, graduates would find the commencement step less of a sudden jolt, would have formed sufficient strength of character to be able to withstand the greater temptations of the world, and would be a real credit to their alma mater. Colleges would turn out more men of force, strength and intelligence. There would be fewer egotistical weaklings.

L. M.

### THE ARMORY CURFEW

Now that ten o'clock has been designated as the closing hour of the Armory, loud and vociferous protests have begun to manifest themselves. Many fraternities and inter-unit groups have complained that their teams have been deprived of the opportunity to practice on the gymnasium floor. And this grievance is justified in many cases with physical education classes, varsity and freshman teams, interfraternity and inter-unit games, the Armory floor is in constant use. The only possible time a team may practice is during the noon meal hour but somehow, this period seems to be unpopular.

But before considering this side of the Armory situation, several other phases must be examined. Pilfering of lockers is an old abuse which reaches its greatest heights during the season of intramural contests, according to the Armory caretakers. Physical education students report thefts of equipment with daily frequency while the campus policeman affirm that most of these disappearances occur after ten-thirty o'clock.

Another change is that students have broken

down the door of the physical education office in order to switch on the lights. After that unpardonable act, they usually neglect to turn them out when leaving the gymnasium floor. Yet when the Armory is closed at ten o'clock, howls arise from the students who fail to realize that they are responsible for the distressing situation.

Again it is true that the loss of articles from the gymnasium lockers is due in many instances to carelessness. Coats and shoes are left lying carelessly in the dressing rooms. Some lockers, though assigned to one or two persons, are used by their friends or fraternity brothers who do not possess their own. Thus it is hardly possible to assign the responsibility for the loss of personal equipment. Whether locking the Armory at ten o'clock will remedy the present conditions remains to be seen, but certainly this move was made in the interests of the students.

H. E. H.

### THE "RED APPLE" BOY

Almost any college student who received his early education in the grade schools a decade or more ago can recall the frail but picturesque lad who daily plodded to school with a luscious red apple, or perhaps a neat little bouquet, for his teacher. With such a picture, the modern undergraduate can easily associate the rude reception accorded the youth by his jeering companions who considered such an act feminine or even quite inhuman.

There are those among us, for instance, who still hold contempt for the "red apple" boy, or what is equivalent to him, in university ranks. They snicker when a student raises his hand to ask a question which more often than not puzzles or interests him. They smile or wink knowingly if he offers voluntary recitation. They recognize him as a ready servant of the professor instead of as a man of initiative and lose sight of the purpose of classroom assemblies, study, recitation and education itself.

Initiative, ability, individuality and service are all qualities applauded outside the recitation quarters. Managerial aspirants, athletes and many other men engaged in extra-curricular activities are never condemned because they are tactful and energetic. Rather, they are respected and praised. Why, then, should the classroom worker be jeered in fulfillment of his principle? As long as the so-called "red apple" boy is a recognized student, officially registered and with due rights and privileges, he is entitled, as such, to liberty and respect in the classroom.

Not the alleged "handshaker," but those who hemoan his presence with ungentlemanly chuckles, slight hisses and unnecessary nudges are the undesirable characters of a college.

L. H. B., Jr.

### The Bullosopher's Chair

"People, excluding professors and efficiency experts, have a failing for not showing up at the specified hour of appointment. It is probably because of the prevalence of this great human weakness that most of us have a feeling of awe and respect for those who are habitually on time, and we have a tendency to patronize those trains that arrive as per schedule and those theatres whose curtain rises as per program."

"Those individuals whose tardiness is intentional, or the girl who makes her boy friend wait—forget it—and the vain one who invariably arrives at the theatre during the progress of the play in order to attract attention to himself. This last-named class of notoriety seekers never trouble Penn State Players' performances, however. No matter how much later than the announced starting time they appear, the play is just beginning—and their purpose is thwarted completely."

"Did a show of the Players' ever start on time? We can't remember any. Why does the curtain rise on their productions at least a half an hour later than the programs specify? Of course, we realize that there are innumerable last-minute difficulties and delays attending the staging of amateur drama, but it seems that, from their long experience, the Players' would learn to make allowances for these retardations and start the show on time."

"Thirty minutes of impatient sitting in the Auditorium improves the attitude of the audience toward the play no more than does a similar wait on a street corner sweeten the disposition of the restless husband toward his tardy wife. It is also possible that a reputation for promptness might increase the attendance at Players' performances. We believe that it is as important for the curtains to be drawn at the specified hour as for the stage machinery in "The Cat and the Canary" to work at the proper moment."

### Letter Box

Editor, Collegian, State College, Pa.  
Dear Sir:

Last fall, an editorial appeared in your columns entitled "Who is to blame?" This has never been satisfactorily answered.

Now the winter sports are in full swing. Prospects for boxing, track and wrestling championships are particularly bright at Penn State. But these teams are not being accorded a fair deal in the matter of dieting. The training table at Varsity Hall does not offer balanced menus. All that is included in a training diet has been omitted from the Varsity Hall menus. How can an athlete exert his best efforts by eating improper food?

Who is at fault? Varsity Hall is supposed to be a training house for the athletes at Penn State. Why are the athletes assembled here? The purpose of a training table is to give pure wholesome food to athletes in training. This is not done. (The coaches' table is served with a better grade of food; the athletes suffer with an inferior grade of food.) What is the motive for this?

Many attempts have been made by the men at Varsity Hall to get the right kind of food. All have been in vain. This week another urgent ap-

peal was made but it has been ignored. Something must be done immediately if the Penn State athletes are worthy of consideration.

### THREE VARSITY CAPTAINS

### Nittany Matmen Will Engage Iowa Tomorrow

(Continued from first page)

pected between Captain Wally Lagget and the western 125-pounder, Holding.

### Packard Meets Blair

Packard will fill his accustomed place on the Nittany list and will encounter Blair for middleweight honors. Holly Hollobaugh will step out on the mat against a newcomer to Iowa's team, Ruggles, who is in his

### STOP at THE PENN STATE CAFE

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first year of varsity competition. The Westerner's second newcomer, Goodale, will find himself in for a stiff struggle when he encounters Tiny Chammer, Lion heavyweight grappler.

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