

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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TUESDAY, MARCH 20 1928

F-O-R-U-M FOR FIVE LETTERS

There are quite a few students who would welcome the opportunity to hear addresses by specialists on subjects of current national interest as a part of the educational training that might be available here. Out-of-town speakers or members of the faculty who are particularly well-versed on various subjects would be the medium for an enjoyable and inspiring session that would afford a gathering of students, some intellectual enlightenment. There is an appalling lack of such form of entertainment at Penn State. That same situation can be remedied if the students themselves demonstrate enough enthusiasm for the addition of forums and lectures.

At the present time there are quite a few students who sit around and bewail the fact that there is no opportunity to attend a forum or lecture. After some minutes of decrying the lack of this feature, they turn their thoughts to other topics and the forum idea is just as far removed from being an actual, beneficial happening as before. If those students would start some serious agitation on this subject, they would be surprised to see the results. It is understood that College officials are only too anxious to inaugurate weekly forums if they are assured of undergraduate support.

If five students will take the trouble to dispatch as many letters, upholding the forum-lecture idea, to the Letter Box of this newspaper we will guarantee the installation of that feature in the educational program of the institution. At first glance, that may seem like a rash promise, but we are confident that five letters will be the impetus necessary to install the forum idea. "You furnish the letters—we'll furnish the forum," should be the slogan of the movement that will result in inspirational and intellectual enlightenment to all who attend the futuristic gatherings.

F-O-R-U-M, a five letter word that can be made an actuality by five letters from the pens of interested persons. We have threatened to guarantee the installation of the forum idea upon the receipt of five letters. Now we want five students who will see if we can make good on our promise.

THE HOOVER LANDSLIDE

Mr. Herbert Hoover of California and the Republican party lared exceedingly well in State College over the week-end as members of the community went to the polls to reveal their choice from among ten presidential possibilities named on the straw ballot. If the present Secretary of Commerce experiences the same success in the future as was his at Penn State he will certainly not lose any sleep worrying over election returns when the evenings begin to lengthen and the air becomes crisp later on in the presidential year.

A record number of eighteen hundred and ninety-two votes revealed unprecedented interest among the faculty and students here. Although it is quite probable that a certain few voted more than the legitimate once, never before has such interest been displayed in any election at Penn State. The criticism that the college undergraduate assumes no interest in happenings outside the boundaries of the campus received a stunning blow that should silence, temporarily at least, the ready critics of the college undergraduate. The large vote is especially gratifying and is a credit to the voters and Penn State. It is interesting to note that one hundred and twenty-three ballots were discarded because of evident discrepancies.

The straw vote showed beyond a shadow of doubt that Penn State is Republican in its political preferences. In favoring Hoover, it has also demonstrated a desire for prosperity, economy, high tariff and prohibition enforcement.

Herbert Hoover gained a notable victory. The unevenness of the result proved conclusively that the ability of the Westerner is well respected. He can count on the hearty support of Penn State voters if he succeeds in gaining the nomination of the Republican party at the Kansas City convention this summer. May even greater power and success be his in the crucial tests which loom in the approaching future.

GREEK

It seems that a portion of the time at a recent meeting of the Liberal Arts faculty was spent in taking the fraternities to task for conducting initiations in such a manner that the neophytes are forced to wait until class time before they can procure fifty or more minutes of much-needed slumber. The fra-

ternities should use more caution and common-sense in conducting initiation ceremonies, say some of the Liberal Arts pedagogues. At least, something should be done so that the freshmen will not answer the pleasant call of Morpheus while attending recitations.

All this discussion is well and good but is it not up to each individual fraternity as to how the initiation should be conducted? The pedagogues could talk about the initiations for many meetings and nothing could be done about it. It is a matter for each fraternity to consider. Fraternities have usually proved themselves perfectly capable of taking care of their own affairs. Is there any reason why such should not be the case now?

Fraternity scholarship cards have been assailed as a nuisance. Perhaps they are, yet nothing aids the freshman in maintaining an acceptable classroom status as much as the issuing of the fraternity scholarship cards at the five, eight and thirteen weeks period. It is true that the non-fraternity student is denied this advantage. A few years ago the Penn State club was responsible for procuring scholarship cards for its underclass members. If this plan has become obsolete, means should be introduced for its reinstatement.

Fraternity scholarship cards are an invaluable aid to better scholastic standing. Non-fraternity scholarship cards should certainly be desirable also. They do entail extra labor on the part of the faculty, yet nothing is gained without cost.

AN OLD CUSTOM

Sentiment is forming with surprising rapidity concerning the present freshman customs at Penn State. From all sides are heard expressions urging the disposal of some and the retention of others. It is becoming a live issue. In the meantime, a committee appointed by Student Council is considering the whole question and will soon announce recommendations for the approval or disapproval of that undergraduate legislative body.

As the College grows many of the customs become obsolete. The larger the institution the fewer the customs. Many of the present regulations governing the freshmen were in force years ago when the College numbered only several hundred students. Now with a student body almost four thousand, it is high time that the retinue of customs be unlearned and held up for minute scrutiny. If the customs are found wanting after a close observation, then they should go the way of all unnecessary evils.

It is most probable that there will be quite a house-cleaning after all the customs have been brought out for an airing. Many are now in force, which are being observed and enforced as well as the eighteenth amendment. It is all too true that an unenforced law is worse than no law at all.

The time has arrived for a thorough investigation of all customs. Such an investigation is being undertaken. In the meantime it would be well for all those who have displayed any interest to bear in mind that the entire matter is one of undergraduate jurisdiction. It is a student problem.

The Bullosopher's Chair

Smithers: The boys—

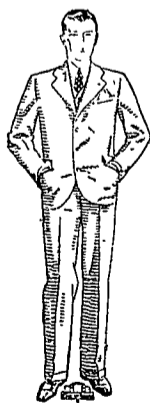
"Well, well, so that's where you were. I understand that it was a corking good meal!"

Smithers: Yes, it was. But some of the decisions were rather—

"Here, here, Smithers, you stop right there if you are going to say what your facial expression indicates. What's the matter with you? Are you one of those people who are always expecting victory and if you don't get it you squawk and squirm around and yell "robber" and make all sorts of alibis. If you are, I am through with you right here and now. I sized you up as a thorough sportsman, always being gracious in victory and smiling in defeat—and I am still certain that you are just that. What you need is sleep after your hard trip. You go to bed now and in the morning you will be yourself again."

Smithers: Why you have me all wrong, Bullosopher. I am not sore about losing by one point. In fact, I am ready to give Navy all the credit she deserves. And our boys gave them all and that's all any one can ask. Naturally it is harder to lose by a close margin than by a runaway score.

"My boy, victory is all right—it is very acceptable at all times, but do you know that defeat builds character. It is the knocks that we get that strengthen us. No man ever succeeded who avoided the trials and misfortunes of life. Victory is sweet, but defeat is often more beneficial—it strengthens the character of the right men."



THREE
BUTTONS
With a
Soft Roll
To
The Second
Authorized
by

CHARTER HOUSE

MONTGOMERY'S
at Penn State

Thoughts of Others

COLLEGE CLUBS

The appearance of a new college honorary or professional organization, regardless of whether it is a fraternity or club, immediately becomes the occasion for a storm of undergraduate and faculty protest with the principal reason advanced that the college is already crowded with clubs and fraternities, and that their somewhat similar functions cause a useless duplication of efforts and interests. Whether the protestors are justified in their contentions should depend, of course, upon the general situation as well as the merits of the particular case.

To adopt a policy of excluding any new fraternities or clubs simply because the opinion is that there are hardly seen a rational treatment of the problem, and would undoubtedly be a revelation to the outside world that the college was greatly underestimating the value of its clubs. A careful analysis would doubtless prove that an organized body of students and faculty members, with common interests and proper administrative guidance could do more for the furtherance of education and stimulation of interest in the particular field than almost any other system.

One quite plausible method suggests itself when the college, disapproving on the rolls a large number of clubs or similar organizations whose efforts and interests overlap—that is, the combination of such groups. Their combined power and unity, by virtue of their increased power and unity, be able to perform services for their members such as before were entirely impossible.

—S. J. Cooper, Daily Orange

UNLIMITED CUTS

When Moses handed down the tenth commandment he neglected to mention good fortune as a prescribed possession of our neighbors, so we are taking the liberty of coveting the good fortune of the Princeton senior. His faculty has given him unlimited cuts in all his classes and it is believed that wasted effort may be eliminated from the student's schedule.

If a man cannot distinguish the wheat from the chaff, and is not able to dispose of his time to his best advantage unimpeded by a routine schedule after three years in the University, he has not acquired the first rudiments of an education.

The University that is sending its graduates into a business world where initiative, not habit, and where judgment, not rules hold sway, might give its seniors this trifling opportunity to prove their maturity. No miracle can occur at graduation which might change the students into a reasonable being. He must have been that way for some time. Why not treat him as such, and take away rules that are as defensible as carrying coal to Newcastle.

—The Cornell Daily Sun

WANTED

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Remarks By—

The Letter—A Play in Three Acts

W. Somerset Maugham—Dorian (82.00). While the devoted, rich husband is hard at work wrestling shakels from a plantation, the charming young wife falls in love with a gassed war veteran and becomes his mistress. Eventually, or conventionally, rather, Hammond, seduced by the erring wife, and acquires a new mistress in the person of a fat, painted and repellent Chinese female. Leslie's pride and heart are, of course, very much wounded and driven desperate by her ill-timed and rejected love. She writes a letter "The Letter" to Hammond inviting him to visit her for a show-down while her husband is away on business. Hammond neglects to destroy the letter, comes, and is pumped full of lead when he denies any affection for his former mistress. The avenged lover, wishing to save her neck and keep the truth from her adoring spouse, acts to perfect the role of a villain, become saved from violation. Her lawyer, after purchasing the incriminating letter from the Chinese woman for ten thousand dollars does win the trial and freedom for his client, but Crosbie, Leslie's husband, learns that his wife is not the pure and innocent creature he had supposed when he demands an explanation of the disposal of the ten thousand dollars. Leslie ends the play and Crosbie's illusions by exclaiming: "With all my heart I still love the man I killed!"

Dramatist Maugham starts his play with a bang, as it were, an opening so effective, in fact, that the rest of the drama drags noticeably at times. After the introductory murder, exposition and revelations, spiced with cocktails and frank conversation, follow in slow succession up to the inevitable conclusion. Leslie, cool and self-controlled for the most part, excites ad-

miration. Crosbie, who is good and blind to the point of exasperation, appears to know even less about women than the average husband. He is too kind and colorless to be conventional. Lawyer Joyce is not strong enough to be admirable, and too conscientious to be attractive. With the exception of Joyce's Chinese assistant and understudy, the rest of the characters do not impress.

The situation of the rejected lover of a wife for a man other than her husband and her vengeance for that neglect is not as new as it seems at first glance. Even Euripides, tragedian of the ancient Greeks, treats of one Phaedra who, when her passionate love for her son was not returned, slew herself and left a letter accusing the hapless youth of violating his sire's marriage bed. Phaedra died for revenge. The modern woman takes vengeance, but lives.

—Book Lover.

College Prepares for First Annual Banquet

(Continued from first page)

York and Bill Roper Princeton football coach, on the speaker's list, the banquet promises to be a gala occasion, according to Harold E. Hastings, '28, chairman of the committee.

Athletic Booklets. A novelty of the evening will be a fifty-page booklet, copies of which will be distributed among the banquet guests. This booklet presents a survey of Penn State's athletic activities during the past year and will include pictures of teams and captions in all sports.

Entertainment for the affair has not been overlooked by the committee. Johnny Buck's orchestra and the Varsity quartet will give several selections and Ralph G. Kennedy '28, will present some Thespian dance novelties.

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