

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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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1928

A FORWARD STEP

By recommendation of the College Senate and the Council of Administration and with the approval of the Executive Board of Trustees re-examinations, representing one of the weakest links in the scholarship system at Penn State, have been abolished and will be discontinued beginning September, this year. Such a move, it seems, was entirely practical since they were gradually heading toward extinction, dying a natural death.

In spite of all that can be said in favor of re-examinations, they were indicative of faculty compromise and representative of a tendency to cater to those shiftless students who found it extremely difficult to attain a passing average on the first attempt. Secondly, they were not entirely approved in professional ranks so that instructors who had scruples about scholarship and scholarship methods flatly refused to submit a condition as the student's final grade for the regular semester. Finally, it may be said that the re-examination system was not entirely in harmony with the remainder of Penn State's recent plan for advanced scholarship standing because it provided another temporary port for harboring the sea-tossed student, for obviously the re-examination is a thing to be relied upon too readily. At least, it is no stimulant to higher grades.

Students who are inferior enough complexed to believe they are effected by this alteration would, if they knew the facts, consider the change a blessing instead of a curse. More than one unknowing student has lowered his average and grade point standing merely by taking what he probably called advantage of the re-examination. As a matter of fact, there was no real advantage. Statistics have shown that those who have preferred to repeat a conditioned course rather than take the re-examination have almost invariably received grades of 2 or 3 (with the accompanying 6 or 9 honor points, of course) whereas the student who returns a week early to erase his condition can, by College decree, receive a grade not higher than passing. Thus, grade points are lost when they could be gained, for such points are not subtracted from the earned total when a course is repeated.

The Administration's latest gesture is extremely laudable if only for the implied invitation for the so-called "sliders" to keep pace with Penn State's rapid progress—or drop out of the race altogether.

DOCTOR CRANE IMPRESSES

Traditional student lack of interest in religion and serious problems of life suffered a severe blow when large numbers of undergraduates forsook movies and other light amusement to attend Doctor Henry Crane's lectures. The conspicuous failure of the questionnaire regarding a substitute for week-day chapel made the student body look like a bunch of atheists or worse. The meagre attendance at many of the previous lectures and forums on religious topics did much to strengthen the opinion that college students care little or nothing for things of the spirit. Now these same youths turn out in force to hear disquisitions on the "Quest for Life." They not only attended, but were stimulated and claim to have liked it.

Did the Penn State student body suddenly undergo a change of heart toward religion or was it Doctor Crane's popularity as a speaker that brought the crowds to his lectures? It seems that the man and his message were responsible. Doctor Crane not only had something to say that the students hadn't been bored with a hundred times before, but he knew how to say it. His ability as a speaker was surpassed only by his histrionic talent. He made his audience laugh at their own follies and the follies of others. His talks were inspirational, but not con-

ventionally so. He won over cynical sophomores, sophisticated juniors and bored seniors to high ideals. Doctor Crane was impressive. If the impression lasts, he has accomplished something.

Evidently the undergraduate is not irreligious, but discriminating. He refuses to inflict "dry as dust" lectures on himself in leisure moments. He gets enough of that in the classroom. If something he considers worth while is offered, he will give it his whole-hearted support. Because people refuse to patronize a bad play is no reason for accusing those people of non-interest in the drama.

COMPARATIVE PROHIBITIONS

If college catalogues speak the truth, the severe discipline of the Puritan home in New England had little on the regulations of some of our institutions of learning. Let those who think restrictions on student life at Penn State are unreasonable gaze upon the following extract from a college catalogue of the current-year and be consoled.

"Profane swearing, the use of intoxicants and gambling are rigorously prohibited; other evils such as the use of tobacco and promiscuous dancing, are frowned upon as being injurious to students and are never allowed in the college buildings or on the grounds; also, injurious amusements, such as the frequenting of objectionable theaters, are forbidden. Fraternities (Greek letter societies) are not allowed, as these lead to a waste of money and of time, weaken attachment to literary societies, and tend greatly to the lowering of the religious standard. It is the purpose to make the college as safe a place as possible for those who are away from home influence."

Card playing is also taboo, according to this catalogue. No reason is offered why these things are evils and as such, should not be tolerated. Like wearing derbies at the dinner table, it just isn't being done.

The suggestion that college should offer as many restrictions as home life, gives rise to speculation upon the number of parents who strictly prohibit their offspring from dancing, smoking and playing cards. The reader may make similar speculations in his own mind and come to the same conclusion. It seems, however, that the college has something more to do than keep its students from indulging in innocent pastimes. In order to meet the trials of post-graduation existence, young men and young women must learn, in addition to obedience to instructions, to face temptation and resist it. They should also learn to think for themselves. One positive virtue overbalances a hundred of the negative type.

The Bullosopher's Chair

Smithers: Have you seen the new Junior class blazers, Bullosopher?
"Are you trying to tempt me again? Can't you recall how you led me on last year and solicited a criticism that, according to the hear-broken committee, was so harsh and belittling that it affected the blazer sales and caused them to slump, in fact?"
Smithers: I remember. But that's quite impossible this time, for the garment is quite surprisingly attractive. That you'll have to admit.
"Right you are, Smithers, but there is still an annoying feature of the blazer fad that from year to year has caused me to chuckle more than little."
Smithers: Fire when ready!
"Well, it seems that annually these class coats are called Junior blazers. That, to my mind, is a foolish misnomer because the garment cannot be worn, according to custom, until after Move-up Day when the wearers are officially Seniors. It is sported, therefore, only by Seniors and only during the Senior year. Why, then, the name 'Junior' blazer?"

"You may think my criticism quite petty and out of order until you are informed that our touted and infallible grade point system was once called an 'honor point' system by our faculty satellites until a more observant member, and one with a fine sense of humor, reminded the higher-ups that it was no honor whatever to receive a minus one. Sounds humorous, of course, but it's true, nevertheless."
"To return to the original issue, remember that at other colleges where the custom is popular, the garment is invariably called the Senior blazer and members of those institutions would probably chuckle upon hearing of our situation."

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Letter Box

Editor Penn State Collegian Dear Sir

In regard to a recent that he directed against the personnel of the college health service by an alumnus, I wish to state that his points were mistakenly given. I recently had the misfortune of being injured in an accident and I can truthfully say that I received the best of care and consideration, with no expression of ill humor or ill treatment.

The letter by our alumnus was, I believe, decidedly unjust and given without forethought. The personnel is insufficient in number to give sufficient attention to individual cases when a number of emergencies arise simultaneously. He may have seen

one item in such a case. In such contingencies, how can a student expect quishing sympathy when others are awaiting treatment?

I found the best of care possible to be given, with the resources at command, accorded to patients and done in a smiling and pleasant manner. It seems to me that the object of the hospital force is to accord motherly care and sympathy, and yet to all who need it.

In emergencies one cannot expect to command all attention to the detriment of others. Furthermore, a patient is hardly ever in a state of mind to praise and therefore exaggerates what one individual, in a moment of stress, may do.

In closing I wish to state that the service rendered is efficiently done and kindly presented.

Yours truly, AN INVALID

Thoughts of Others

Comprehensive Examinations

In spite of the modern tendency towards giving comprehensive examinations and psychological tests, it is rather hard to see the advantage of the system, especially when the results of the tests will be made a criterion for future work. Doubtless the examinations will be very thorough in their scope, and under normal conditions might give valuable information on the student's grasp of the subject. Nevertheless, under existing conditions, these tests resolve themselves into a race against time, and the race does not always go to the fastest.

The Carnegie Foundation reports

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WET and "Dry" have changed their meanings so many times recently that one hesitates to use them—nevertheless, we risk the danger of being called old-fashioned and herewith submit this statement: Sawyer's Frog Brand Slickers will keep you dry.

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Charleston, W. Va., March 4, 1927

Larus & Bro. Co., Richmond, Va. Gentlemen: Recently I stopped in a little village that consisted of about nine houses and a small hotel, which I entered. A little old man wearing a skull cap was seated in a rocking-chair smoking an enormous pipe. I had come to buy a can of Edgeworth, but when I caught a whiff of the tobacco he was smoking I changed my mind. The aroma of that tobacco was so delightful that I made up my mind right then and there that I wanted some of the same brand, regardless of the cost. I began with: "I beg your pardon, sir, but I came in to buy a can of tobacco, and I would like the same brand you are smoking if you don't mind selling me." He looked at me for a moment, grasped his pipe with one hand and said: "I'm smoking Edgeworth. Would you like some?" Of course I did, and I secured a supply from the old fellow. The joke, of course, was on me, but I went on my way rejoicing.

Yours very truly,
Dr. John H. Koch
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Cathaum

THEATRE

AND Nittany Theatre (Matinee Daily at 2:00)

NOTE:—No matinees after Tuesday. Cathaum closed starting on Thursday Nittany open every night during vacation. Opening time 6:00 o'clock.

FRIDAY—Cathaum—Clara Bow in "RED HAIR"

FRIDAY—Nittany—Edmund Lowe, Mary Astor in "DRESSED TO KILL"

SATURDAY—Cathaum—Esther Ralston in "SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS"

SATURDAY—Nittany—"RED HAIR"

MONDAY and TUESDAY—Matinee Monday at 2:00 John Gilbert and Greta Garbo in "LOVE"

TUESDAY—Cathaum—Sammy Cohen and Ted McNamara in "WHY SAILORS GO WRONG"

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