

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, MAY 1, 1928

TO THE POLLS!

With tomorrow and Thursday morning designated as the periods of annual class election voting, the campus is alive, bustling with politics, and the student body awaits in more or less suspense the final results of what are, after all, thrilling and interesting political contests. Doubtless, many will scoff at the returns, bewailing the fact that the best man did not triumph. Yet, it is often the protestant who fails to visit the voting boxes, when opportunity calls, to support that "best" man.

It is still a debated issue whether or not voting is a privilege or a duty. If a student is to assume the above attitude after the count is made, then, most assuredly, voting should be a duty to one who regards its importance so highly. On the other hand, if it is a privilege, it is one to be used and not abused—as has been the case in the past. Whichever it may be, the entire student body should go to the polls to vote, the one faction to fulfill the duty, the other to enjoy the privilege.

Those who have not premeditated nor already promised their vote may find it difficult to decide the man for whom their ballot should be cast. If an enterprising vote solicitor should suggest his candidate worthy because he is "the logical man," he is giving cause for disillusion, there is no "logical man," none who can be called by one name. He is the logical man who appeals most strongly to the individual voter as the nearest to his ideal of a candidate. There is no logic in trying to place at the top of the heap one who is on an equal footing with men who would probably fill a position just as capably as he were they elected to the chance.

Tomorrow or Thursday, every qualified student, seizing privilege or sensing duty should tramp to the polls and cast a vote. We almost added to that statement—at least one. But the old days of fraud and stuffing the ballot box are gone. With the new system of vote-and-check-name, it is almost impossible to tally more than once. More than seven score candidates for different posts await your various apportionments of supports. To the polls, everyone, that the best man may win.

THE RUSHING CODE

After years of dabbling with various rushing codes, the Interfraternity Council has finally devised a method of procedure that may keep peace among the Greek tribes when the rushing warfare begins in late September.

It is especially gratifying to note that the fraternity legislators rise to demand politely but firmly that all fraternities which the code will finally affect must deposit an honest-to-goodness sum of money with the College treasurer, the same to be returned if no violations have been made. The previous parallel to this ruling which decreed fraternities temporarily suspended from the Interfraternity Council for infractions, was discarded because the code revisers felt it was not a severe enough penalty. The prospect of losing actual money may cause all the fraternities to work above board and so secure the desired result.

The introduction of sealed bids and the period of silence are perhaps the only other new features of worth in last year's redressed pact, although the apportionment of "dates" and their re-definition deserve honorable mention. The sealed bid system, besides giving every fraternity an equal chance in the matter of securing pledges, will facilitate matters greatly, will save the prospects embarrassment or confusion and will add a business-like atmosphere to the pledging procedure. The period of silence, during which freshmen must remain unmolested, is a commendable innovation since it affords a period of rest, one in which the prospective pledge may decide carefully and without outside annoyance his future fraternity. And a moment or more of careful thought preceding the final choice may prove invaluable to the future fraternity man.

Beyond the possibility of accomplishing the foregoing results, the revised code may be powerless, since it was concocted by human mind and so can exert no superhuman influence. Besides, it will take a miraculous code to put an end to pledging in the mid-summer.

CUSTOMS REVISION?

When a reform of any nature is proposed, those directly or indirectly concerned group themselves along a line between the two extremes, conservatism and radicalism, by the attitude they assume toward

the reform measure. The reactionaries oppose any change, however slight, and base their view upon the argument that if the present conditions were good enough for our forefathers, they are good enough for us. They are usually of the self-satisfied type that prefers to live in a rut and fears that change will disturb their comfortable complacency. At the other extreme, the radicals wish to upset present rules and regulations in order to substitute a set of their own, conceived in haste by somewhat unbridled imagination. They are usually brilliant in their own fashion, but lack breadth of view, toleration and the stabilizing force of common sense. Between the two extremes one would expect to find the ideal, but unfortunately one does not always find it so. In this middle group are too many of those who never arrived at a conclusion through their own mental efforts in their lives. They are gentle, innocent persons who, like the daisies in the field, are swayed by every passing wind. To the few rare individuals, possessed with foresight, the ability to see both sides justly and the power to think for themselves, we owe intelligent reform.

Many believe that the time has come for intelligent customs revision. The Student Council appointed a committee to work out such revision. Some time has elapsed since that action was taken and as yet the Committee has not been heard from.

The question, of course, is a ticklish one. It always has been. Should the Committee propose any changes, the conservatives among the student body will howl. Should the Committee propose no changes, there will be a howl from the other side of the fence. Certainly, the Committee does not lack the courage to speak its mind. At least, we'd like to hear from them.

A WELCOME ADDITION

The ideal of the student who aspires to the title, "a well-educated man," is, we believe, to "know something about everything and everything about something." The college with a well-balanced curriculum, then, should attempt to give its graduates a broad, liberal education in addition to specialized training in a particular line of work.

In a college with as varied a curriculum as that of Penn State there is a need for organizations that will band together and encourage students who are interested in each of the various groups of subjects. At the present time there are honorary societies purposing to stimulate activity in several lines of endeavor, but the list is not complete. With this in mind we welcome the addition of a local chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, national social sciences scholastic fraternity, to the group of honoraries at Penn State.

The organization is a composite honor society serving the departments of economics, sociology, political science, history, commerce, law, education, psychology and philosophy. Many of the above subjects, important as knowledge of them is to the average man in everyday life, have not received the deserved amount of attention in the past. Some outsiders, in fact, still believe that nothing is taught at Penn State except agriculture and engineering. We have every reason to expect that the new society will do much to increase student interest in the hitherto neglected social sciences. Again, we welcome Pi Gamma Mu and wish them success in their activities at Penn State.

The Bullosopher's Chair

"The Thespians, I suppose, are expecting the annual 'punning' I hate to disappoint them, but I'm not going to do it. I might say that the plot was unusually weak, that the 'Island of Truth' idea smacks of a much earlier piece of stage burlesquing, called 'The Naked Truth,' and that many of the jokes were of ancient vintage, but such observations are obvious, and why say obvious? Taken all in all, 'Honesty Yours' wasn't such bad entertainment. It was amusing to see broad-shouldered, muscular masculines masquerading as fair young damsels. And of course, the music and dancing helped to compensate for mirth-provoking wisecracks that provoked no mirth.

"Any imitation I may have felt when fun was poked at the worthy journal which I represent was passed off with a smile when the volume of laughter greeting the jibes (there were two of them) convinced me that those were the most popular of the evening. Then too, it was enjoyable to find that the Thespians should condense to notice us at all.

"In spite of the snow, Saturday night's performance ought to have been a financial success."

There Is a

REDUCTION

Spring Topcoats

Montgomery's

An excellent SELECTION

Awaits You

MONTGOMERY'S

Remarks By—

Clare Ambler—Booth Tarkington Doubleday, Doran Co. 1928 (\$2.50) The much-discussed flapper type is again probed, revealed. Novelty in her sins, morals and unconventionalities, but in her method of attack, her philosophy of life. He shows the inner workings of her mind, which, although blank to everything but herself at first, gradually expands its range until it includes other things, not the least of which is a man, a husband.

Tarkington's flapper, Clare Ambler, was comely, sensibly dressed, had justness and a stereotyped line of chatter that made men fall in love with her and kept them from proposing. She was just eighteen when we are introduced to her, sophisticated and desirous of attracting not one male but all males. She was unconsciously engaged in hunting HE, the one man who possessed IT for her. Her first victim of note was young Nelson Smoek, a serious sophomore, who fell in love with her at first sight after knowing her for three days. The stricken youth, true to type, proclaimed his affection in nonsensical contemplative scribbles in her vocabulary. "Prom-Trotter" She was furious, and out of the rage, pain and bewilderment came—her first thought.

Removed to the romantic setting of an old monastery on the Mediterranean that had been transformed into a hotel for foreign idlers in Italy, Clare continued to amble about in the hearts of men. She acquired an Italian Prince, Aituo Lianna, who follows the promptings of Cupid, and also the Bastion brothers, distributors of spurious jewelry, who follow the promptings of Midas. Unfortunately, however, she acquiesces a great deal of anguish and a beating at the hands of the Bastions and becomes strongly attached to a young English invalid who is fated to die in the following October. Clare thinks she loves him "for now, at last, the man at her side had become infinitely more to her than the man at a distance." The invalid loves her but, of course, marriage is impossible and amid tears and regrets she is forced to leave.

Clare's twenty-fifth birthday finds her unwell and worried. She is faced with the prospect of the expedient of getting married, like "all the rest." The fear of being "left out," of being alone in the world is counterbalanced by a vague distaste for marrying merely for the sake of being married. She believes that she can never fall in love and acting on this belief, she finally dismisses Walter Rackbridge, a persistent suitor and all that one could desire in a husband. When, however, Clare sees Walter joining

the "squadron" of an attractive eight-year-old flapper, she has regrets. She warns him against the wiles of this youthful member of her sex at the risk of being thought jealous and in the course of her admonitions, tells him to wait until he finds a woman who can take some interest in him for himself and not in his merely being in love with her, and then marry her as quietly as he can. It slowly dawns upon him that she unconsciously meant herself. The result is, of course, kisses for two and a church wedding.

In one respect, at least, Tarkington's novel is superior to the majority of the current exposes of the younger generation. Cocktails, immorality and cigarette smoking are kept in the background where they properly belong and not flaunted in one's face as startling revelations. The feminine use of tobacco, gin drinking and the practice of a technique known in popular slang as "necking" are a part of the life of today's youth, but not the most important part.

Men who wish to understand women, especially the husband hunting activities of women, will be fascinated and disgusted in turn with Clare Ambler. They will find her interesting. Many of their illusions about coquetry will be broken. With these between the pages, they will resolve to beware of her kind in the future, close the book, look into a pair of dancing blue eyes and join the squadron of a Clare Ambler in the flesh. —BOOK LOVER

Letter Box

Editor, Collegian, Dear Sir:

It has been my privilege (sic) to hear the last two lectures given at the Old Main auditorium by a so-called professional psychiatrist, but I cannot let pass unchallenged certain wild statements made by this highly eminent gentleman. Of course, I am not a professional psychologist, so that I cannot be accused of professional jealousy nor of bias peculiar to the different schools. It does not require a professional psychologist, however, to detect fundamental errors of a statement like the following: that psychopaths are moral imbeciles, are incapable of moral judgment, but are highly intelligent, and that they are fond of embracing lost causes and of soap-box orating. I can go on enumerating other characteristics of a moral imbecile as given by him, but all these qualifications may be generalized as "those who are opposed to his 100 per cent American, Republican, K K K ideas" are, per se, psychopaths. I leave State College to

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Advertisement for Shredded Wheat. Features an illustration of a man in a suit holding a glass, and the text: 'You can't isolate a VITAMIN. YOU can take the biology expert's word for that. And you can believe the physiology prof when he says they are essential to health. You will get a good start on your daily quota of vitamins A and B in a breakfast of Shredded Wheat WITH WHOLE MILK OR CREAM.'

careful of missing this high form of entertainment for the intelligentsia of the community. One more. Anyone who would say a thing like this stamps himself as utterly unfit to practice psychiatry: "What we need is more inhibition, or we will become a nation of libertines, anarchists, and bolsheviks." Shades of Franklin, Jefferson, Thoreau, etc. Gentlemen, we have to thank this shining example of the zealous professional guardian of public thought and public morality to keep us in the right path to 100 per cent Americanism. Y C P.

Policeman Praises Student Stability

"I feel that the attitude of the Penn State student body is better this year than at any other previous time," Captain Andy Zarger, of the campus police, ventures.

"We haven't had any serious outbreaks this year," he continued, "and in comparison with last year this is remarkable. The pajama parade and several other incidents of last year will hardly be repeated this year because the average Penn State has found true stability. The boys are finding out that they must pay in the end."

The capable captain stated that two years ago when the campus police were first organized they were given the "birds" as it is said in the force, but now the student body has found out that the police are really here to help and not to act as spies at various functions. This attitude has been brought about mainly through the cooperation of Student Council and the Senate, he said.

FOREIGN LANDS REQUEST AGRICULTURAL BOOKLETS

Penn State's agricultural publications have reached foreign lands, according to a letter received by Prof. Robert H. Olmstead, of the extension department, from Melbourne, Australia.

The letter from Mr. James Carson, of Melbourne, requests a copy of a circular, "Feeding the Dairy Cow," written by Professor Olmstead. It is a booklet regarding dairy feeds and feeding, which the writer regards as highly important in his farm management.

E. N. SULLIVAN TO ATTEND ANNUAL ALUMNI COUNCIL

Edward N. Sullivan '14, secretary of the Alumni Association, will attend the fifteenth annual convention of the American Alumni Council at the University of Minnesota, May third to fifth inclusive.

The meetings of the council will be held in the Minnesota Union building on the university campus. Mr. Sullivan, who is vice-president of the council, will preside over the session on May third. While in Minneapolis he will be present at a dinner of Penn State alumni which will be held at the Nicollet hotel, May second.

Advertisement for Nittany Theatre. Includes the name 'Cathaum THEATRE' and a list of plays: 'HAROLD TEEN', 'IF I WERE SINGLE', 'THE ENEMY', 'GOOD MORNING, JUDGE', and '10,000 MILES WITH LINDBERGH'.

Advertisement for Stark Bros. Haberdashers. Located in the University Manner, Cathaum Theatre Building.

Advertisement for Pretty New Silk and Cotton Crepes. EGOLF'S.

Advertisement for Furniture made to specifications in single units or in quantity. Department of Industrial Engineering, Room 106, Engineering B.

Advertisement for The "TIGER" by M. Fromm. Features the text: 'To the front with the back. The "TIGER" Originated by Learbury. The one piece back coat, no center seams, materials perfect match. Now on Display in Window. Priced \$37.50 and \$40.00. Two Trousers. M. FROMM.'