

Penn State Collegian

FULLY ESTABLISHED 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, DECEMBER 14, 1928

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

In the days of long ago a brilliant star guided three good and wise men to a humble manger where the Christ-child was born. At the cradle of the Savior of the world the three wise men from far lands laid precious gifts. The trio of savants had no thought of having their presents returned in worldly coin. They gave unselfishly, as he came to a king of men whose command was "love," not "kill." Their tribute came direct from the heart. Such was the origin of the Spirit of Christmas.

Throughout the ages a yearly holiday season has been consecrated to the birthday of Christ. Among Christian peoples each generation has passed down to its successors the tradition of Christmas. Today the Yuletide season is celebrated with more cheer, though perhaps less reverence, than ever before. The Spirit of Giving, personified in the bearded and robed figure of Santa Claus, is still in vogue, but for the majority the original Spirit has changed to a horse of an entirely different color. The jolly Santa, distributing his gifts to the offspring of wealth and poverty alike, is the sole possessor of the old Spirit.

In the modern materialistic and individualistic city the Spirit of Giving has lost its original spontaneity and altruism. The etiquette of giving is as conventional and hushbound as a commencement program. How often one hears, "So-and-so gave me a present last year so I guess I'll have to give her one this year," or "So-and-so can't afford to give us anything this year so we hadn't better give them anything." Giving Christmas presents has developed into a vast system of exchange. Each person has his (or her) list of persons to whom he expects to send presents, and from whom he expects to receive gifts. People have grown to feel that a social stigma is cast upon them if they receive a gift from someone to whom they have not given. Kind-hearted souls may often strike the names of needy friends and relatives from their Christmas list because they do not wish to cause them social embarrassment. The whole pernicious system is a gross insult to the great Spirit whose birthday they are commemorating.

Of course there are some good and gracious souls who give to the poverty-stricken and needy at a great sacrifice to their own personal comfort, but they are relatively few, a handful of Davids among a multitude of Goliaths. A brave and heroic martyr would be he who would dare to give only to the poorest of his acquaintances, neglecting those from whom he expected to receive presents. Such a hero would deserve the appellation of Saint.

Great social and economic changes have wrought since the birth of the Savior. The philosophy of the day is materialism and individualism. In a way the age is a primitive one, harking back to the stone era when every individual had to fight for his own skin. In such a period, then, one can expect the reciprocal giving Spirit. One can expect little in the maximum "give for a tie and a hanky for a hanky."

WANTED: A NAME

The previous editorial, "Christening the New Gymnasium," elicited so much sentiment in favor of a better name for the new Recreation Hall that the subject is worth re-opening. The students are heartily opposed to the present name, and upon the strength of this fact the Student Council should plan some definite action.

Obviously, criticizing the present designation, "Recreation Hall," as unacceptable is purely destructive. It is now time for constructive action. Under the sponsorship of Student Council, a contest for a new name might be held and would surely evoke a flood of suggestions, a number of which would probably be an improvement on the present choice. A board of judges could be appointed and after an acceptable one had been chosen, a petition to the College would receive just consideration.

Already names such as "Hetzl Hall" and "Bezdek Hall" have been suggested. Either of the above designations would be a vast improvement on the existing name and both the President or Hugo Bezdek would be deservedly honored. Hugo Bezdek's loyal and competent services in the face of adverse criticism as Director of Athletics and Coach of varsity football for a period of years is a distinct contribution to the development of Penn State. The improvements President Hetzel has wrought at the College during his still brief reign would merit the christening of the new gymnasium in his honor.

LITERARY ATMOSPHERE

Penn State has been criticized for its lack of what is called "a literary atmosphere." Perhaps the criticism is just. Back in the early history of the College two flourishing literary clubs were filled by the advent of fraternities. About eight years ago another of the so-called literary societies enjoyed a brief span of existence. It must also be admitted that the average undergraduate has

a certain feeling of contempt for anything labeled "literature."

The common contempt for the better grade of writing, has, however, been gradually dying, like the old-time suspicious fear of hobgoblins and vampires. The first tangible manifestation of this changing attitude is the formation of Purple Quill, honorary literary guild whose public debut was made with a farewell banquet to Dr. Fred L. Pattee.

The guild is composed of undergraduates and faculty members who have a true and lasting interest in either the creative or appreciative side of literature, or both. The Purple Quill has been organized along lines that promise a long and successful existence. The manner of conducting the meetings of the society is both colorful and distinctive. The Purple Quill purposes to draw together students and faculty members with an interest in literature for mutual benefit and enjoyment, as well as to stimulate creative writing at Penn State. The guild is worthy of a permanent clubroom in the reconstructed Old Main. In the course of time the Purple Quill will strike the death blow to the clinging "cow college" tradition. It is also a long step toward the growth of a literary atmosphere at Penn State. It is worthy of the greatest possible encouragement from both students and faculty.

THE HATCHET MENACE

Several weeks ago students living in the new fraternity section were highly incensed by the seemingly ruthless butchers of the shade trees in the name of the "modern" science of tree surgery and artistic landscaping. Recently the tobacco-chewing wielders of saw and axe transferred their "artistic" operations to the campus and its environs. They showed no more leniency for the vegetation of "one of Pennsylvania's beauty spots" than for the trees of the Locust Lane district.

One by one some of the choice bits of the scenery have fallen before the attack of the axemen. Both students and faculty have mourned at the sudden disappearance of some of their favorite shrubs and the mutilation of some of the most attractive trees. But all is mourning. No one seems to have been able to effect any restricting action upon the haphazard hatching of the campus decorative vegetation. No one seems to know exactly why the butchery is carried on who is responsible, or how to stop it.

The College campus, especially in the Spring, is noted for the beauty of its landscaping, which is one of the outstanding attractions of Penn State. Every friend of the Institution should oppose with energy anything that threatens to mar the beauty of the campus. Such things as beaten paths across the grass seem like minor details compared to the new hatchet menace. If those responsible for the seeming wanton butchery can justify these actions, let them do so publicly. If not, let some one in authority restrict their activity.

The weekly pictorial section which has been appearing in the Collegian was the result of an experiment in publishing, innovated by Campus Pictorial, Inc. Lack of financial support from advertising brought about the failure of the experiment and as a result, the rotogravure sections will be discontinued in all college newspapers subscribing to the plan.

Collegiate Definitions

NUMBER 11.—PIPE

In pseudo-sophisticated undergraduate slang this term, "pipe," may mean any one of three different things. It may refer to the evil-smelling piece of wood and amber in which followers of our Lady Nicotine immerse the dried and adulterated leaves of a weed. It may mean the fraternally-famous "lead" pipe. But this definition is concerned only with the scholastic ("") meaning of pipe.

Pipe courses are those which give the greatest number of credits in return for the least amount of effort. They are ardently sought out in the college catalogue by those who engage the greatest importance to the social aspects of a college education. They are the sole existing reason why some "over-intellects are cast upon a gloomy world in possession of the coveted sheepskin. Synonyms: snap, sneeze.



May We Take This Opportunity to Extend Our Sincere Greetings For a Holiday Season

KEELER'S Cathaum Theatre Building

Thoughts of Others

Handshaking?

No one will deny that there is such an institution on the campus as "handshaking." We all know the person who is vitally interested in the health of the prof and who can be seen at the desk of the instructor at the close of every class period. We also know that most of the profs can be "handshaken," whether they admit it or not. But it is entirely possible for us to be led too far in our criticism of "handshaking."

It is often very necessary and even vital that we see the professor personally. Sometimes it is impossible for some of us to grasp a point that has been presented in class. Sometimes the professor has at his fingertips knowledge which would require hours of labor on our part to secure elsewhere. There are numerous other instances when it is wholly desirable that the student speak personally with the professor, and yet there are many who withhold from this contact for fear of being misjudged "handshaken" by their fellow students. Notice a student who has just finished speaking with a prof. Does his countenance not portray a guilty feeling? Does he not try to explain why he was so ill-fated as to be required to converse with a prof?

The person who gets his mark by "handshaking" deserves to be criticized, but let us suspend our judgment.

—The Gettysburgian

Facts Wanted

We should like some day to see a reliable compilation of statistics concerning prohibition on and its problems in the colleges and universities of this country. Upon the generation now in the higher schools of the United States supposedly will devolve the intellectual leadership of the nation, and one of the most important tasks that it will be called upon to face will be that of solving the prohibition dilemma. It would be well for the young generation to give the subject some real thought. Whether or not it intends to enforce the legislation imposed upon it by patents, or legally to renounce it, or illegally to ignore it is surely a matter which deserves its attention.

Our attention is called to this subject by a reporter of the International Student, organ of the International Prohibition Association, entitled "A Year Among the Colleges of the United States." This organization apparently has been carrying on an extensive propaganda service in four hundred colleges of the country, expending untold sums in holding lectures, forums, and discussion groups, but if its accomplishments can be measured in anything but number of hours spent, the report says nothing about it. Surely in these broad contacts the representatives must have encountered much interesting material, but they record their achievements solely in number of weeks spent and number of students reached. No mention of general student attitudes toward drinking and prohibition, nowhere of trends of student views.

Twenty Years Ago

(From the Collegian files of 1908)

If a Summer School should be established at the College, according to the resolution adopted by the State Teachers' Association meeting last summer and endorsed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in his annual report, it will be one step toward an ultimate School of Education. Plans are being prepared for a horticultural building which will constitute another part of the agricultural group. It will be located near the new Agriculture Building. The end of the path when completed, according to the best authority will be the fastest in the country. It is a quarter-mile oval with a 220 yard straightaway. In order to emphasize the College as an educational center of the State, various associations are being invited to hold conventions here.

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Greetings

CANDYLAND GREGORY BROS. Allen Street

May We Extend Our Best Wishes For a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR

Unanimously from the Six Barbers at SPRINGER'S BARBER SHOP Next to "THE CORNER"

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

And the best wishes for a joyful vacation from

THE PENN STATE HOTEL Comfortable and Reasonable

FEATURING COURTESY — CLEANLINESS — SERVICE WE AIM TO PLEASE

East College Ave. Facing East Campus JOHN N. GARBBER, Manager

Soft Coal Baskets For Fireplaces 22 1/2 inches x 15 1/2 inches x 9 1/2 inches (Inside Dimensions)

\$5.00

BACK WITH LION'S HEAD — \$1.50

Back with special monogram can be furnished as desired by customer

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

First Floor, Engineering B

hall five opened its season at the Armory with a fine victory over Harrisburg A. C.

DEAN SACKETT RETURNS

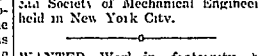
Robert L. Sackett, dean of the School of Engineering, returned Sunday from a conference of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers held in New York City.

WANTED—Work in fraternity by married couple. Experienced. Address Mrs. J. D. Rutherford, Route 2, Tyrone, Pa.

WANTED—Housekeeper for fraternity. Town resident preferred. Call 123

Pair black kid gloves taken by mistake from Sigma Phi Epsilon house December 8. Kindly return to 129 Pugh street

Don't Experiment with your Appearance



Montgomery & Co. State College, Pa.

May you have A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

The Hiland Shop

SUBSCRIBE TO THE

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

FOR THE

SECOND SEMESTER

Price, \$1.25

Notices

Copies of the Old Main Bell may be obtained at the Corner Room, Gramham, the Nittany News Stand and at Waits.

Penn State Beaver County club will hold its annual Christmas Ball at the Junction, New Brighton, Pa., December 27. Ted Weem orchestra. Dancing from 9 to 2.

Cathaum THEATRE

AND Nittany Theatre

NOTE: Next week, theatre opens Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Vacation opening time 7:00 p. m.

FRIDAY—

Marjorie Beebe in "THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER"

SATURDAY—

Ken Maynard in "THE PHANTOM CITY"

MONDAY—

All Star Cast in "THE WAY OF THE STRONG"

WEDNESDAY—

"Flash," Famous Dog, in "SHADOWS IN THE NIGHT"

NEXT FRIDAY—

Sally Eilers, Matty Kemp in "THE GOODBYE KISS"

STARK BROS. HARPERS Haberdashers in the University Building NEXT TO THE MOVIES

May Your Christmas Be a Most Happy One

and then

The New Year a Most Prosperous One

L. K. METZGER, 111 Allen Street

May you have

A Very Merry Christmas

and a

Happy and Prosperous New Year

The Hiland Shop

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