

Penn State Collegian

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"JOINING" THE ALUMNI

Although they may be unaware of it, members of the class of 1929 have "joined" the Alumni Association of the College. They may find it perplexing to ascertain exactly when the post-graduate bond was authorized by them, but nevertheless it was, in some indirect method. Perhaps there was a class meeting attended by only a score of interested students who, of necessity, sanctioned the move for the entire senior class.

Certainly the students who voted approvingly on the plan to join the Alumni Association in a body were not at fault even though their decision did bind to the Alumni all seniors, some of whom would not have joined of their own will. That is why we deem it fair to believe that many timid souls were virtually pushed into the association, reluctantly, unwillingly. That is why, furthermore, we feel that the blanket method of enrolling members is less pleasing, less desirable than the voluntary procedure.

When a prospective graduate, moved by the proper stimuli, testifies his consent to become an official graduate member of the College, he is, by that very move, manifesting an interest in his institution and in the association, an interest that is genuine because it is the product of a free will. There are those who may become mildly protestant or even indignant at having to join the group when they had no desire to do so. And these rebels, these protestants, these disinterested members who later become so much dead wood to the Alumni Association would be better out of the organization. Or perhaps there are some who feel that an official ticket and a subscription to the Alumni News are not necessarily indicative of respect and loyalty toward the Alma Mater and that they need no paid, alumni status to prove they value the guidance of such a worthy college as Penn State.

The "new" Alumni Association may be worth supporting. We are not disputing that belief. But where is the wisdom, justice and spiritual profit in herding students into an unknown pen like so many animals that are driven blindly ahead, knowing neither where they are going nor why.

Surely the end is respectable and must be gained because it is necessary for future development of Penn State. But the means—?

SOCIAL OR COMMERCIAL?

Tonight's Military Ball is locally considered the second outstanding social event of the winter season. There will be shining, sparkling gowns pressed closely to snug, neat uniforms; smooth silk hosiery matching the swift moving glossy boots step for step; dazzling buckles winking at glittering spurs. There will even be an audience, members of which are privileged to sit in the balcony of the gymnasium and watch the revellers, upon payment of a nominal admission price. And some will be foolish enough to help ruin the entire formality of the evening by seeking a seat in the gallery.

The balcony crowd will certainly lend color and life to the event and will probably swell to no negligible extent the proceeds of the Military Ball, a more or less private enterprise. Yet, why should the majestic atmosphere that dominates every military function be cheapened by a hundred sheepskin coats and as many dangerous tongues? And why need the affair, intended to be a social one, be transformed into a commercial proposition? Surely the dancers will not be pleased as the objects of glaring eyes and possible jeers. They may even feel ill at ease to such an extent that their intended diversion becomes hard labor.

The originator of the scheme is to be complimented for his wholesome sense of humor for it is entertaining to witness the antics of collegiate dancers. But it seems unfair to expect those dancers who have paid money to be entertained to amuse others.

EDUCATION AND WEALTH

Several days ago 'The Lampon,' undergraduate humorist publication at Harvard university, startled authorities with an edition devoted solely to caustic remarks on the huge gift to the university made by Edward S. Harkness. The donation was for the express purpose of organizing and developing the inner college plan at the Cambridge institution. With visible indignation the student periodical rebuked officials for taking an action so important without the slightest consideration of student views and opinion.

The issue of the magazine is replete with illustrations bearing on the theme. Through the Harkness gift, says 'The Lampon,' Harvard has "won the right to become ringmaster among the educational clearing houses of America." Another article reads: "Somebody suggested that the students should be taken into account. He was given a five-foot shelf of the Harvard classics and the gate." And in another part: "Dr. Harkness has made a noise like Santa Claus, but all the university serfs got out of him was a new set of workshops."

The result of this outburst matters little to us. Whether or no 'The Lampon' will be punished or its future issues severely censored for its supposed malfeasance is of little import here. This timely incident is il-

lustrative, however, of the tremendous influence wealth plays in the matter of higher education. Through huge gifts colleges and universities are made larger and larger, with the result that they become, not standardized and more efficient institutions, but huge factories and workshops which turn out graduates and degrees like so many strips of steel.

A student seeks higher learning not only for the mere sake of a degree, but with the clear intent of developing his personality, character and intellect during his four-year stay at college. But, for the most part, he is deprived of his right because that certain college or university is a great, big industrial mill, turning out graduate after graduate with the rapidity of a General Motors plant. And this has been caused, not by the exigencies of time, but mostly by the huge donations of self-titled benefactors who crave the enshrinement of their names in the histories of the benefitted colleges.

'The Lampon' incident is only one example of student re-action on the matter. Without a doubt there are many others hushed up and silenced by the authorities before news of them has been spread.

H. T.

THE STATUS OF CUSTOMS

The same problems of repealing and amending laws that face every organization, whether it be local, state, or national, are now confronting the student government of Penn State. Student customs originated on the campus several decades ago when the College was in its youth. They were established for the express purpose of instilling within the mind and heart of every student the spirit of love and loyalty for his alma mater. Their effect was noticeable immediately. The campus became engulfed in a different atmosphere; the student body ceased to drag along in the same old rut, and evinced a greater interest in the College. Especially great was the influence upon the freshmen. They no longer retained the mannerisms of their high school days, for the discipline which they received under the campus regulations made them capable as men; of assuming later, the responsibilities of upperclassmen. The spirit that made Penn State famous is an outgrowth of this era in which the College emerged from a period of dormancy.

But times have changed since then. The College has grown rapidly, both in enrollment and in the quality of its production. In conjunction with the change in the organization of the institution came a transformation in the type of student; a transformation in ideals and environment.

Although the College in every aspect has passed through a period of evolution, customs and traditions have remained in their original form. Many of the rulings, however, have lost all significance and are merely occupying so much space in the books of the student government. Last year Student Council, having been brought to a sudden realization of this condition, made an honest effort to improve it. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter and, after careful consideration, abolished certain regulations that were found to have out-lived their usefulness.

But that committee accomplished its work only in part. There still exist in the freshmen handbook several rulings that have become obsolete and at present it does not seem to matter whether or not these laws are enforced. Perhaps the lax enforcement is due to an unwillingness on the part of upperclassmen to report the violators, or, it may be that the judicial branch of the government fails to mete out severe enough punishment for the offenders. Wherever the fault may lie it is evident that these rulings are not producing the desired effects.

No college should be without a system of regulations for its students, especially for its freshmen. But there is, however, such a thing as having too many customs. There are now in the student handbook twenty-nine rules that have been drawn up for the exclusive benefit of underclassmen. Of these perhaps half are really enforced as they should be while the remaining fifty percent are almost totally disregarded by those students for whom they were intended. Since the year in its present form has proved to be cumbersome and difficult to carry out, it might be better to amend or repeal the antiquated rules and concentrate upon the beneficial ones? This is an apt problem for the student legislators to solve.

C. A. M.

Twenty Years Ago

With George W. Groff '07, in China, an unusual interest is being felt by State men in that country and particularly in the work of the Canton Christian college where Groff is at work. With the thought of deepening interest of all State men in missions and particularly in Groff's work, it has been planned to observe next Sunday as "Groff's Day." The aim has been kept in mind to make "Groff Day" an annual College affair and the plan has the hearty endorsement of President Sparks.

Baseball contests with four of the "Big Five," twenty-five games in all, and nine of them at home, and probably the strongest list of games ever produced for a Penn State nine, is Manager Wilcox's offering for the approaching season.

As we go to press word comes from the post office that, due to insufficient funds, the installation of local mail delivery must be abandoned for the present.

Our team made a record of winning five consecutive games by winning from the Pittsburgh Collegians here on Monday night. The Smoky City five held the white and blue even for a short time but when Waha started on the warpath the Nittany men passed the visitors by leaps and bounds. Herrmann, Reid, and Waha were the most conspicuous men in the slaughter.

It is safe to say that no number of the popular Y.M.C.A. course has been better received than was that of the Dunbar Concert Saturday night. They are masters of bell-ringing.

NOTED AGRICULTURISTS TO ADDRESS GRANGERS

Mr. Rennie W. Dunlap, assistant secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, Mr. Edward V. Dorsey, master of the Pennsylvania Grange, and Dr. Charles C. Jordan, State Secretary of Agriculture, will be the principal speakers at the annual Grange dinner in the Methodist church next Saturday night.

Players Prepare for Drawing Room Drama

(Continued from first page) He has appeared previously this year in one of the minor roles in the pugilistic farce "Is Zat So?"

Supporting Cast
One of the experienced members of the supporting cast is Miss Olive E. Osterhout '20, a member of the Players. Miss Osterhout played the leading feminine part in "Beyond the Hor-

Pianist All "Encore" for This Smoke

San Francisco, California, August 8, 1928

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With best wishes from
Yours sincerely,
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izon" and also appeared last year in "The Family Upstairs."
Miss Helen Buckwalter '31, portraying the role of the vicar's wife, enacted one of the leading roles last year in the production of "The Cat and the Canary." George W. Robertson '29, made his first appearance this year as the prize-fighter in the comedy "Is Zat So?"
Howard Cashdollar '30, and Anton Hardt '31, other members of the cast, have also played in former shows. The two newcomers to the ranks are Philip K. Roos '30, and Benjamin Conard '32.

Nittany Debaters Will Engage in 9 Contests

(Continued from second page) debated by a team representing Rutgers university here March 22.

Another extension debate at a place as yet undecided will be held March 16 with the University of Kansas. At the end of March, Northwestern university will meet the Penn State team in another extension debate.

Journey to Philadelphia
During the week-end of March 22, the team will journey to Philadelphia, where they will debate with Temple and Lincoln universities. Both these debates will be on the question of the League of Nations.

The team will meet Holy Cross college April 17 in an extension debate. This completes the schedule as already made, although negotiations are under way for several other meetings later in the season.

Military Ball Group Arranges Final Plans

(Continued from first page) ing extends around the four walls, with flags draped between the balcony columns. Long drapes and pull-downs hide the columns; with a stand of eight flags attached to the top of each pillar.

Every day is a gift day. Gifts for every day and every person at Old Main Art Shop. 1tp

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Directly behind the band shell, which will house the orchestra, is a gold curtain covering the west wall from the edge of the running track to the floor.

Committee Opens Balcony
As an innovation attempted here for the first time, the balcony will be opened to the public. All those desiring to hear the music or witness the affair may do so without paying the four dollar admission price. A nominal fee will be charged for this privilege, and College authorities state that a strict watch will be maintained to prevent any disorderly conduct.
Fraternity booths will be placed under the balcony on three sides of the building and fraternity furniture may be used. Arrangements for catering service similar to the plan used at the Senior Ball will be provided.

Don't Experiment with your Appearance



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CATHAUM THEATRE

AND
Nittany Theatre

FRIDAY—Cathaum—
Matinee at 2:00
Dolores Del Rio in
"REVENGE"

FRIDAY—Nittany—
Ronald Colman, Lily Damita in
"THE RESCUE"

SATURDAY—Cathaum—
Matinee at 2:00
Glenn Tryon in
"THE KID'S CLEVER"

SATURDAY—Nittany—
"REVENGE"

MONDAY and TUESDAY—
Matinee Monday at 2:00
Lupe Velez, William Boyd in
D. W. Griffith's
"LADY OF THE PAVEMENTS"

TUESDAY—Cathaum—
Matinee at 2:00
Esther Ralston in
"THE CASE OF LENA SMITH"

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Crackle!

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