

Penn State Collegian

Published semi-weekly during College year except during College holidays by Pennsylvania State College students in interest of College, students, alumni, faculty and friends

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Member of Eastern Intercollegiate Newspaper Association
Entered at the Postoffice State College, Pa., as second-class matter

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1929.

AN OPEN LETTER

April 23, 1929

Dearest Mother,
It's dollars to doughnuts that you are worrying about me, wondering whether I fell and broke an arm or flunked out of school. Happily it is neither. But truly I have been plenty busy trying to get out a couple of reports, work on the lawn, and stay out for baseball. Too, I've practically given up the idea of a week-end at home before the Junior Prom. And before I forget it, did I tell you that Mary has changed her mind, or rather, her mother has changed her mind, and she will be here for the Prom? I'm elated, I am. The boys decided at meeting last night that we will have a big spread Saturday night, May 11, for our mothers. A real, honest-to-goodness banquet. All the mothers are crashing through for the week-end, it seems, and you have me guessing since you haven't told me definitely whether you'll be here. Here's my ultimatum. If Dad won't let you have the car you hop the train Friday morning and I'll meet you at Bellefonte. I'm not fooling, either, because I'm not going to be the only boy without a girl over the week-end. So there!
You remember the fine time you had last year. Well this year will be even better. There'll be a mass meeting, I guess, maybe a vaudeville show or a Playes' production and a couple of athletic contests. Then there's the May Day exercises you enjoyed so much last year, the banquet at the house, and a tea by the women students. You don't want to miss it, and I'm sure I don't want you to miss it, so make arrangements to spend Mothers' Day with me at all costs. I'll write again later in the week. My best to Dad and Sis.
All love,
SONNY
P. S.—Don't forget the dates: May 10, 11 and 12.

University courses in "the art of love making" are strongly advocated by Judge Ben Lindsey, well-known juvenile court magistrate. Which raises the question as to whether the courses should be compulsory or optional.

NON-COMPULSORY R. O. T. C.

The popular belief that Penn State is forced, by the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, to include compulsory military training in her curricula is unfounded, an examination of that and other federal laws clearly shows. The existence of this belief, and likewise its fallaciousness, is pointed out in a communication which is published today in the "Letter Box." Military training, according to the Morrill bill, is placed in the same category as the other branches of learning which are named; and, as our correspondent remarks, not every student is compelled to study Greek and Latin. The original Morrill bill, vetoed by President Buchanan after having passed both houses of Congress in 1859, included no reference whatever to military tactics. This was inserted, it is believed, because the bill was passed during the war period. There was no indication in the debates that the addition of this clause aided in the passage of the Act.

Further proof that military training is not mandatory under the Morrill Act was furnished in 1922 when the University of Wisconsin, a land grant college, abolished compulsory drill without suffering any diminution of federal appropriations. Statements by Secretary of the Interior Work in 1927 are reassuring on this point. That the National Defense Act of 1920 likewise makes instruction in military tactics optional with the authorities of the school, college or university, was affirmed by Secretary of War Weeks in 1924.

Boston university, College of the City of New York, and De Pauw university are a few of the institutions that followed the example of Wisconsin and discontinued compulsory military training. The consensus of student opinion at Penn State is opposed to compulsory R. O. T. C. The increased enrollment during the past year in the advanced courses reveals, nevertheless, an interest in military training on the part of a large number of undergraduates. This interest is reassuring, since it is far to believe that a large enrollment would likewise be possible in the basic course. Moreover, military authorities here admit that the course should be increased to three credit hours. This change would undoubtedly assure the College of a representative military unit. Under these conditions the COLLEGIAN is convinced that the time has come for the Administration to consider abolition of compulsory R. O. T. C.

A scientist claims he has invented a mechanical man who can listen and think. But he can't take notes!



Hair and Religion

An eminent French philosopher—or perhaps he is a connoisseur of coiffeurs—claims that a man's hair reveals the nature and character of his religion.

If Monsieur Le Connoisseur were to visit our campus, he would be surprised to discover the number of atheists, we have on our faculty.

Footnotes For Columns

So many readers have made inquiry concerning the meaning of a certain paragraph printed in this column two issues back that we hasten to extend apologies for over-estimating the intellect and mental dissecting powers of college students, and in the next breath, to reprint the far-fetched crack (it came from Africa) with copious footnotes.

If the poet Pope could have lived in our day and taken time out from his physics experiments to witness the St. Vincent's baseball game on Saturday, he would have returned to his sacred diary and probably have written: "Ah, how St. Vincent's stooped before our boys, and yet what superhuman ball they played!"

- 1 Famed for the bromide "to err is human, to forgive divine"
2 Name of a college near Latrobe (Pa)
3 So-called because it was on the baseball schedule
4 St. Vincent's committed nine errors not the saint, the team.

Al-choo, Baby

Dear little child
Who cries
For everything she sees,
I'm lucky
That you're not around
When I sneeze!

The Week's Worst Joke

The alumnus of thirteen years standing (hush, Timothy, he wasn't a floorwalker) was enjoying his Sunday dinner with some of the brothers, swallowing some food and then some words and so on far into the dessert. Suddenly the conversation drifted to women and the alumnus of thirteen years standing, began, strangely, to delight the boys with words about his wife, a college graduate.

"When was your wife in college?" asked one of the brothers seriously.

The grad of thirteen years standing thought a moment and after some calculation responded, "Let's see. She graduated in '18."

"Eighteen what?" innocently asked a co-eater who had been memorizing the dates of the Civil War all afternoon.

Agreeing To Disagree

Now that we have open politics we have "mutual misunderstandings" which, like "miscellaneous," may cover a multitude of sins.

Sure Cure

One way to correct the fault of swallowing words is to refrain from eating alphabet soup. But if one will persist in swallowing his words, the next best bet is to send for a Literary Digest.

Fate or Fortune

When all the famed journalists have passed, including Pulitzer; including B., including R., Unscarred, uncrippled, they may look back at the world. And, in relief, sigh one of two things: "I missed a striking figure in my day." Or, having had him, smile and whisper "He missed me!"

Making Whoopee

The Boston jurors who convicted a New York publisher for selling "An American Tragedy," an obscene book, two years ago, probably forgot how their ancestors made "whoopies" at a so-called "tea party" some decades ago.

Drops and Drops

Texas Guinan, queen of clubs, who is spending most of her time being shuffled in and out of courts, declares that she never took a drop in her life.

Yet, in the estimation of the Anti-Saloon Leaguers, Tex seems to take a drop every time she appears in court.



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NEXT TO THE MOVIES

Letter Box

April 20, 1929

To the Editor of the COLLEGIAN:
Zona Gale, in a recent issue of The Nation, has pointed out the inconsistency in the interpretation of the Morrill Act under which Penn State was founded. The Morrill Act, as printed in the College catalogue, reads as follows: "The leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts..."

Nowhere does the law read that military training shall be compulsory—only does it state that military tactics shall be taught. In fact, the bill as it was first presented to Congress did not have the words including military tactics. These three words seemed to have been added as an afterthought, and did not intend to convey the meaning that the main purpose of the school should be to teach military tactics, but the main purpose was to teach such branches of learning as were related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.

If the Morrill Act compels students to take military training, it also compels them to take agriculture, mechanical engineering, Greek and Latin. The absurdity of such an interpretation is obvious. Compulsory military training is neither compatible with the Morrill Act, nor in keeping with the desires of the students. The University of Wisconsin has already abolished compulsory military training a step which would be welcomed here at Penn State both by the students and by fair-minded citizens.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) GEORGE MORLAN
(Ed Note: Morlan is listed in the directory as an unclassified and special student.)

FACE CIRCUMSTANCES, DECLARES MCCONNELL

Deplored the fact that most of us fail to face the circumstances in life squarely, Dr. Charles M. McConnell, faculty member at the Boston University School of Theology, addressed the chapel audience in Schwab auditorium Sunday morning.

During his talk Dr. McConnell cited numerous instances in which men have submitted to circumstances instead of rising over them. "We are continually forced to submit to conditions over which we have no control," he said, "and it is imperative that man should change these conditions."

"Consider well the circumstances and set out to overcome them," he declared. "Also look the facts squarely in the eye and work ahead, trying your best to understand the conditions of life."

MEN'S WEAR

For the College Students

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Norwood, Ohio Oct. 8, 1928

Latus & Brother Company Richmond, Va. Gentlemen.

In the past twenty years I have been a consistent smoker. I was always anxious to smoke a pipe, but no matter how often I tried, I soon changed my mind. I have tried all kinds of pipe tobacco, but not once was I satisfied with the taste of any of them until just recently I gave my pipe another trial.

It was my luck to choose Edgeworth this time, with the results that I am still using it and will continue to do so. I only hope that you will continue to give that same mild, high-grade quality in the future.

I have started not less than sixteen men to start or give Edgeworth a trial, and they are still using that same unequalled non-biting tobacco to this day. I can recommend Edgeworth tobacco to anybody who enjoys a cool non-biting brand of good tobacco, and as long as I enjoy same, you can rest assured that I am going to be a good ad., and many a pipe smoker will be asked to give it a fair trial, and they themselves can act as judges.

I always give praise where praise is due. After I was convinced of the wonderful quality of Edgeworth I could not help but tell you people the same as I have been telling and will in the future tell others.

Hoping that you will continue with the same quality in Edgeworth, I am Very truly yours,
(Signed) Joseph J. Stahl

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Under The Spotlight

In selecting a mystery melodrama as a show to present from the Schwab auditorium stage, the Penn State Players made a happy choice, a choice in keeping with the current rage among novel and short story readers for things mystifying. "At 9.45" was a beautiful bubble in the continuous stream of Players' productions and markedly different from the soggy and worm-eaten driftwood that has so often floated by in the past. A bubble, yes, but one sufficiently mucky to begot the penetrating eyes of even confirmed admirers of S S Van Dine and other emulators of Woodrow Wilson in the matter of porusing detective thrillers for relaxation. Readers of mystery stories and audiences attending thrilling dramas want to use their wits in seeking a solution for stated complications. They like to be fooled. Only a genius—or playwright Owen Davis—would not have been fooled by Saturday night's show. All of which is another means of saying that Owen Davis' mystery melodrama as staged by the Penn State Players was a success. If the directors continue making equally good selections, future Players' presentations will undoubtedly draw even larger houses than the one Saturday night.

"At 9.45" was the vehicle by which three aspiring amateurs made their debut in Penn State dramatics. Miss Alberta Lum, Miss Grace Tomlinson and John Rutherford comprise the trio. In our humble opinion Directors Cloetingh and Masson have found three impersonators whose work should prove an invaluable asset, that is, if they are cast in equally suitable roles for future plays. Combined with an easy stage presence, Miss Lum has the knack of making an audience eat out of her hand, as it were. In her role as the redoubtable "Margaret Clancy" she brought roars of laughter from the house at every appearance, providing a bit of merriment in an otherwise somber play. Playgoers can look forward to much more humor of the same kind, for Miss Lum is but a freshman now.

Evidently, Charles Kray knows a little about acting, too, judging from Saturday night's performance. He was one of the strongest characters of the entire show, not alone because of the vibrant detective he impersonated but also because of an inherent sense of the true dramatic art. A role

almost as equally well filled was that of "Doane," portrayed by Paul Sunderlin. One could say that it would not be amiss for Sunderlin to apply somewhere for the position of butler; he fills the type so well.

Just an impertinent question, now. Does not the death of a son call for a marked display of anguish on the part of the immediate family? If one were to draw an inference from "At 9.45" as presented by the College dramatists, the answer would be negative. The entire cast appeared to take the sudden death of "Howard Clayton" as a matter of course, except for a few squeals when the news was first broken. Perhaps it is a rule of dramatics that no over-display of sentiment be allowed, but such a regulation in real life does not hold. Accidents and sister ordinarily faint or at least become hysterical upon learning of the death of a loved one. If the part of the mother and sister of the murdered man were played correctly Saturday night, Owen Davis must have had two strong characters in mind when he wrote "At 9.45."

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Twenty Years Ago

In the second inter-class game played this year, the Juniors defeated the freshmen, who had beaten the sophomores last week, by the score of 16-to-3 last Saturday. Due to frequent errors on the part of the freshman team the score was higher than it should have been. In the sixth inning alone, there were five errors and two hits made, which accounted for seven runs.



Matinee Daily at 1:30—Last Complete Afternoon Showing Begins at 3:00

TUESDAY—Buddy Rogers, Nancy Carroll in "CLOSE HARMONY" All-Talking, Singing, Dancing Picture

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY—Dorothy Mackaill, Milton Silla in "HIS CAPTIVE WOMAN" Music and Dialogue Sequences

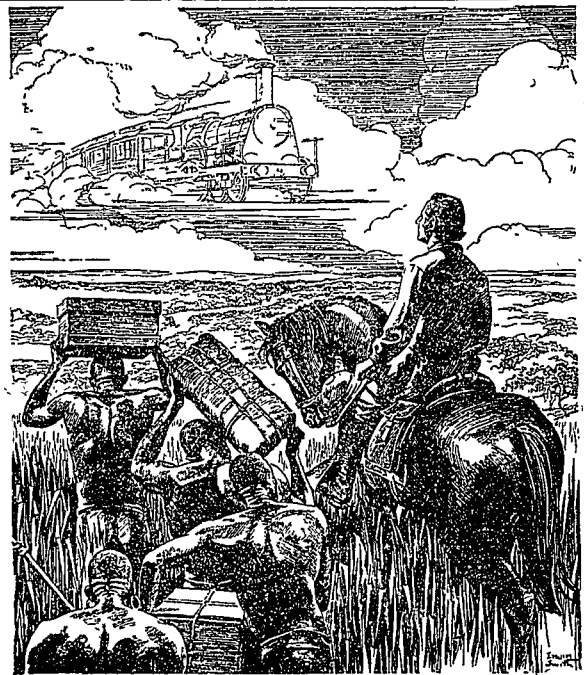
FRIDAY—Ruth Chatterton and All-Star Cast in "THE DUMMY" 100% Talking Picture

SATURDAY—Lupe Velez, Gary Cooper, Louis Wolheim in "WOLF SONG" Music and Singing—No Dialogue

Nittany Theatre Showing Silent Pictures Only

TUESDAY—Laura La Plante in "SCANDAL"

THURSDAY—Lina Basquette, Jean Hersholt in "THE YOUNGER GENERATION" Laurel and Hardy Comedy



A vision come true

In a part of Africa little known to the whites, where obscure trails ran, Cecil Rhodes dared to envision a railroad. He lived to build it.

The railroad itself was part of a vaster dream, a dream of a far inland colony linked fast to existing coast settlements by rail and wire communication. And he lived to build Rhodesia.

First the dream, then the reality, is the

rule with telephone men too, as they work to greater heights of service. But in between, they know, must come periods of careful planning and smooth coordination of many elements.

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