

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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

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FRATERNITY BOOK-SHELVES

One simple means of adding to the library's stock of books might be profitably undertaken by Penn State fraternities. If each house would contribute a volume every year, the payment, although individually slight, should be of material benefit to an already underpaid and over-taxed institution.

Bookplates for these contributions might be supplied, and the volumes thus produced could be housed on separate shelves. It is probable that, in making this an outward sign of fraternity cooperation, contemporary literature from a list prepared by library officials would be preferable. The money thus saved in the department of entertainment could be turned into other channels.

It is obvious, that the library has long been one of the weakest links in the organization of this college, because of inadequate endowment. Every effort should be turned to paving the way for the needed improvements. This evidence of student interest, in addition to its obvious immediate advantages, would be further proof that undergraduates, too, are concerned with its betterment.

The return of the annual Pennsylvania Inter-scholastic Athletic Association state championship basketball game to the College after an absence of three years presents an opportunity to impress thousands of schoolboy sports followers with Penn State's program of expansion. Students should unite in extending every possible courtesy to the many visitors who will throng the campus tomorrow, so that the impression they carry away with them will react favorably towards Penn State.

MARTYRS TO THE MASSES

It has been pointed out that the unpleasant burden of inflicting poor grades on the unworthy rests heavily upon the Schools of Liberal Arts and Chemistry and Physics. For this reason the grade averages of these two schools are materially lowered.

The Chemistry and Physics school, for example, puts a considerable kink in its total average because of the low grades made by outsiders who are taking its instruction. The average of members of the school is much higher. There is no statistical chart to show whether its decreased average is caused by freshman delinquents in large part, or not. Unless it is shown that first-year flunks are overwhelmingly prevalent, it would seem that whether or not marks were given to students enrolled in the school, greater stress on training and less on deliberate "weeding out" would be desirable.

ON THE HORIZON

It seems a long time until examination week. In reality that time is less than two months. And so far College officials have made no mention of any change from the present outworn system of imposing finals.

Some time ago five deans of undergraduate schools here said they believed that students with high semester grades should be exempt from final examinations. However, if something is not soon done toward changing the rule that prohibits exemptions, good students will again be forced to undergo tests that are believed by many faculty members and a large percentage of the student body to be wrong in principle and application.

Furthermore, the usual five and one-half days of examination week have been cut this year to only four. Monday is Memorial Day and the semester ends on Friday. It might be wise to reduce the number of students who will have to take part in the last minute grind, since scheduling tests for about four thousand members of the three lower classes will be no easy task.

Perhaps total abolition of final examinations is the solution of the problem, but there is doubt whether Penn State is ready for such a drastic step. However, this idea of giving exemptions to good students has received the approval of five distinguished educators, and their approbation should warrant giving the plan an investigation, at least.

A thorough discussion in the College Senate of the good and bad points of the proposal might clear the air a lot, and eventually lead to the alleviation of a condition that is worth closer observation.

R. C. S.

OLD MANIA

We marvel increasingly at the fact that, while the local educationalists continue to holler about the practical side of various college curricula, the greater majority of the teaching brethren make no semblance of an effort to explain to their undergraduate victims the manner in which their course relates to the world in general and the undergraduate in particular.

We can think, off-hand, of no more than two or three professors who attempted to make clear the benefits to be had from their courses, or to justify the inclusion of their courses in the students' curricula. As a rule, the professor starts a semester by handing out some sort of outline covering the semester's work, assigning a text, warning against the evil of cutting classes, and insinuating that if the student plays along with the sacred system he will be rewarded with a pretty fair number of honor points at the end of the term.

This criticism applies itself particularly to required courses. When a student is required to submit himself to a course in political science or English literature or economics or botany or engineering lectures, he has a right to expect some explanation justifying the requirement. Does he get it? Probably not. More than likely the course will be thrown in his face, along with the implication that it's one of those things, like taxes and laboratory fees.

We listened to one professor attempting to justify his course in literature on the grounds that literature is an interpretation of life. Inasmuch as this person's knowledge of and contact with life had been almost wholly in the field of academic literature, we weren't overly impressed. But at least, the spirit was willing.

We humbly submit that something should be done about it, for the partial enlightenment of those unfortunate undergraduates who are unable to understand just why they are required to learn such vital and significant facts as the provisions of a late nineteenth century tariff bill, while ignoring general tendencies which can't be catalogued and dated.

We suspect that this story has a pretty fair growth of graying whiskers, and even that it's somewhat libelously inaccurate, but we'll tell it for what it's worth.

It seems that Dean Chambers and Dean Stoddart were staying at a seaside resort last summer, and, for want of anything better to do, went fishing in a glass-bottomed boat. After several hours without success, they gave up and hauled in their lines, but just then Doc Stoddart peered through the transparent bottom and noticed a large tuna directly beneath the boat.

"Looky!" hissed he. "A fish!" "Thellwithit," said Dean Chambers sulkily. "I'm tired fishing. You make the place and we'll come back tomorrow."

Accordingly, Doc took a piece of wax crayon from his vest pocket and carefully made a mark on the glass bottom of the boat, exactly above the unsuspecting tuna. Then they put in for shore, arriving back at the dock safe and sound.

Arriving at the hotel, Dean Chambers turned to Dean Stoddart and said, "Doc, are you sure you marked the spot where we saw that fish?"

"Of course," replied Doc. "I distinctly remember marking the exact spot on the bottom of the boat."

"Why you colossal ass you!" shouted Dean Chambers. "And what if we get another boat tomorrow!"

THE MANIAC

Movies Elevate Community Morality In Certain Respects, Peters States

That the movies are contributing as much in certain respects to elevate the morality of a community as they are contributing in other respects to lower it is the conclusion reached by Dr. Charles C. Peters, director of educational research, after a two-year investigation of the relation of motion pictures to morality.

The study was limited to four phases of morality: aggressiveness of a girl in lovmaking, kissing, democratic attitudes and practices, and the treatment of children by parents. The moral standards of thirteen different social groups, including preachers, factory workers, college professors, New York city flappers, Monmouth farmers, social reformers, and negro school teachers, were measured.

"We found that motion pictures are in violent conflict with present moral standards in regard to aggressiveness of girls in lovmaking," Dr. Peters said in summarizing the results of the investigation. "They are almost

parallel with current approvals in regard to kissing."

"Motion pictures are above standards of approval and action in regard to democratic attitudes and practices so that they raise morality much more than they lower it," Dr. Peters continued. "In addition they happen to be much better than current standards in respect to treatment of children by parents."

Dr. Peters stated that those pictures which offended the morality of social groups were less successful than other films. This is in direct conflict with what motion picture producers apparently believe, he said.

One of the most important achievements, according to Dr. Peters, was the contributing of a technique for measuring movies, or standards of morality, in the future. He maintains that a body of social science research workers could do much for the improvement of the services of motion pictures to society.

The investigation was conducted with the aid of a \$3,000 subsidy from the Payne fund, a fund donated to the support of social science research. The report, which is a highly technical monograph of approximately 300 pages, has been completed and sent to the publishers.

FRATERNITY WILL OPEN CONVENTION HERE TODAY

Sigma Gamma Epsilon To Hold First National Convention in East

Members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, honorary mineral industries fraternity, will open their first national convention to be held east of the Mississippi at Penn State today. Dr. W. H. Tweenhofel, founder, will deliver an address of welcome in Room 315, Mineral Industries building at 10 o'clock this morning to delegates and members from twenty-seven chapters in eighteen states.

After the founder's address the gathering will hear committee reports, and take up other routine business, which will be continued at the afternoon session. A dinner at the College Inn, followed by an informal dinner, will conclude the day's activities.

Election of officers will open tomorrow's session. Field trips to study local geological formations and to inspect mining and metallurgical projects will occupy the afternoon. The convention will close with a werner roast at the Andy Lytle cabin tomorrow night. Visitors who remain over Sunday will make trips to Penn's cave and other natural caverns in the afternoon.

BOROUGH SANCTIONS PAYING OF SOUTH ATHONTON STREET

An ordinance providing for the paving of South Athonton street between College and Prospect avenues was passed at a recent meeting of the borough council.

Two other State highway projects will link State College with the Lakes-to-Sea route from north and south. An improved road between Potter's Mills and State College will provide a direct route to Lewistown, while the paved road near the golf course will be extended across the mountain to the Bald Eagle highway.

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Speaking Of Books - -

Italian Painting An exhibition of prints of Italian paintings from Giotto to Leonardo da Vinci will be shown in the second floor hall of the Library for the next few weeks.

Telephone A pay station telephone is to be installed in the first floor hall of the College Library for the convenience of all. A file of telephone directories covering some of the larger cities of the country and a number of places in Pennsylvania will be shelved in the Reference room nearby.

To the South of Us Stuart Chase's "Mexico" and Marian Storm's "Prologue to Mexico" are alike in one respect. They both see something very much worth while in the simplicity and natural beauty of that country as well as virtues which may well be emulated by the northern neighbor. Perhaps also, they paint Mexico in too glowing colors.

The first volume, by a well known American economist, is a valuable study of the social and economic life of the rural regions. It is interestingly written and goes into picturesque detail about their work, play, shelter, and food.

"The Prologue to Mexico" is a search for a spiritual haven which the author claims to have found on the edge of the hot country—"an elusive home that never seen before would yet at once be known." One interesting Mexican scene follows after another and in between there is much valuable information about Mexican

flowers and plants with a glossary at the back.



(Matinee at 1:30. Evening Opening at 6:00)

FRIDAY— Spencer Tracy and Star Cast in "SKY DEVILS"

SATURDAY— Bert Wheeler, Robert Woolsey in "GIRL CRUZY"

MONDAY and TUESDAY— Maurice Chevalier, Jeannette MacDonald, Charlie Ruggles, Genevieve Tobin in "ONE HOUR WITH YOU"

WEDNESDAY— Elissa Landi, Victor McLaglen in "THE DEVIL'S LOTTERY"

THURSDAY— Richard Barthelmess, Marian Marsh in "ALIAS THE DOCTOR"

NITTANY FRIDAY— "THE BEAST OF THE CITY"

SATURDAY— "SKY DEVILS"

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY— Another Sherlock Holmes Mystery "THE SPECKLED BAND"

THURSDAY— "THE DEVIL'S LOTTERY"

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