

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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MACHINE METHODS

With grades to be given out pretty soon and honor points the subject for quibbling, it seems timely to discuss one of the more vicious contributions of the modern hallyhooning educator. The idea of distributing grades by a mathematical curve system is the specific reference. It is most common among the inexperienced instructors and the older men of the faculty who have come under the influences of the educational race for progress. The application of mathematical principles of distribution to such a human problem is one of the atrocities of the modern craze for experiment and the use of "scientific" methods in everything from feeding chickens to the study of philosophy.

Based on the findings of some savant who could find no better use for his time than in assuming experiment, the principle of distribution of grades in a mathematical curve, if followed religiously, means that there will always be a small percentage of students in a given class who rank the highest grade. A slightly smaller number will receive the next highest grade while most students secure the more mediocre marks. A few just flunk while even a smaller number fail with honors, as it were.

Most persons are convinced of the truth of mathematical principles in human affairs when a considerably large number of people is involved. Any person with a speck of common sense and experience in mathematics could have told the "discoverer" of the grade distribution curve that his theory would work in the mass. The principle of grades points to that directly. Only a few are expected to excel and not so many are supposed to flunk while the most popular place is in between. That is true for the whole College but not as a rule for the individual classes.

Some classes are made up of students who all deserve poor grades, others have solely a brilliant student roster. Is a curve to be applied in these instances? Some instructors modify their curve in these cases. Put how about the situation where the border lines are not so sharp. There are the same records to go by. Class-room work, attendance, and the many other things with which the Professor can label his students should be turned to for giving a grade instead of having recourse to the easier method of becoming slave to a curve.

Following only a few months after the resignation of Burke M. Hermann as head basketball coach, withdrawal of Laine S. G. Conover, freshman football and basketball coach, takes from active connection with College athletics another famous Penn State athlete and well-known and popular member of the coaching staff. Best wishes go both to Larry Conover and Dutch Hermann as well as to the newly elected staff members, Earl E. Leche, head coach of basketball, and Nelson S. Walke and Gilbert T. Loeb, freshman and assistant coaches.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Friday night and an audience of some few professors, a handful of students, and three judges listened to the sophomore finalists in the extemporaneous speaking contest. It is called "extemporaneous" for some queer reason. Actually the contest is a test in memory and every year the finalists have exhibited ability to gush forth smooth sounding expressions and mellifluous phrase which never could be conjured up by unskilled "speakers" standing on the platform or given even a short period for preparation.

It would be advisable to reorganize the method, or to discontinue the whole contest if interest is considered by the sponsors to be too slight to justify the awards. If the contest is to be continued as it now stands, at least it should be called a declamatory contest. The present competition is just a little higher in standards than the oratorical contests which most of the students competed in during their high school careers. It would, however, be more appropriate to make some change to eliminate memorizing as much as possible.

If each candidate were given a few hours to prepare about four specified subjects of general interest and then were called upon for any one at the time of the speaking, as fool-proof a system as is humanly possible could be in effect. If the quality of the speeches would be lowered under this system, at least the extemporaneous part and the qualities which it is supposed to bring out would certainly receive the emphasis which they are not now receiving and never have received in the present student generation.

OLD MANIA

Perhaps you were one of the fortunates who received a phone call Thursday afternoon from a sweet voiced co-ed who said she was just oozing for a chance to have a date with you. No, you didn't know who she was. However, you might meet her in the library. You'd recognize her by the yellow dress she was wearing. And perhaps you had sufficient of an unclashed configuration, as we Gestalt psychologists say, to go up to the library, where you saw quite a crowd of other guys standing about near the door and in the aisles and up on the balcony. And about eight or ten girls working at different desks, all wearing bright yellow dresses. And maybe you didn't think it was as funny as we do.

HITCH YOUR EYEBROW TO A STAR

In flights of fancy we no longer Rollick Our latest Brain Child's Down with the Colic

We rominate for a prominent position among the press notices in Mr. Lewis' library the feature article or college slang that appeared in Sunday's Philadelphia. The only places where Penn State was mentioned were in connection with the expressions "digging cellars" and "late dating." It is too bad that the public should be misled into such an impression of our college. Why, people will begin to think that about all we do on big week-ends is to go about excavating other peoples' basements. And we had been trying to keep it under cover, too.

You may have noticed that there is to be a faculty art exhibit today. You may also have noticed that Dean Sackett was out in front of the Armory Sunday morning painting a tree. All right, then, painting a picture of a tree, if you're going to get technical. So all you will have to do in order to find which are the works of the Eminent Engineer will be to sniff at them. If they smell of fresh paint, they are the ones he just executed. If they smell of dust, they are the same ones that have been hanging on his office walls to, to these many yrs, discouraging artistically minded persons from violating the sanctum sanctorum sanctorum.

Seen About: The gals at Ivy Inn (You know, the place where you always trip over the sidewalk as you stroll past) almost got a large helping of plaster for breakfast last Monday morning... the ceiling fell just too late to be any fun... Charlie Rice has a fine rack of pipes... and we're not referring to the course he's taking, either... Old Man is no longer painfully new and void... she has become consecrated and accepted as a real part of the institution, now that she is a mother... four little robins on a rear balcony... Congratulations, Alma Mater! "Carrying coals to Nanticoke" has a parallel simile of futility in "planting shibuberry on the Kappa Sig lawn"... Here that the Choops are building themselves a fish pond... which will become, in due season, their winter sports development... If the Beaver st. Diner is going to transform the former miniature golf office thusly, why don't they take down that sign?... it's pretty hard on the keen-eyed dirty-dirties to restrain uncouth remarks... Ed Zern is to play on a polo team this summer... and if he comes back with a Polish accent... What was the "Y" president doing up in Old Man the other night about one o'clock?... And was the "Y Wubbelyan" executive staff working the same evening?... shush



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LESLIE NAMED AS NEW COURT COACH

(Continued from first page)

Springfield, he did graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh and for the past year has been engaged in similar study at Columbia University.

The new freshman mentor coached basketball at Thiel College for two years and for the past year has been in charge of physical education and athletics at the Lincoln school of Columbia University. For the past three summers he has been doing similar work at the summer sessions at Bates College. From 1925 to 1927 he was in charge of physical education and athletics at the Sarah Heim House, Pittsburgh.

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PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK

OF STATE COLLEGE

FACULTY ART EXHIBIT OPENS TODAY IN MAIN ENGINEERING

With approximately seven faculty members represented, the annual faculty art exhibition opened in the third floor of the Main Engineering building this morning.

Dean Robert L. Sackett, of the Engineering school, Prof. James B. Helme, Prof. Harold E. Dickson, Prof. Wendell P. Lawson, Andrew W. Case, and Chester L. Wiseman, all of the architecture department, and Carl W. Wild, instructor in landscape architecture, have contributed works to the exhibit.

PLUMBING AND HEATING

Albert Deal & Son

117 S. Fraser St. Phone 163

Advertisement for a safety razor with an illustration of the razor. Text: 'New Model #4 Designed with right handle. For the man who prefers this type to the swing handle of the regular razor. HERE'S VALUE CLIP THIS ADV. This Adv. and 25c entitles you to a DURHAM DUPEX SAFETY RAZOR with one new Gold Star Hollow Ground Blade and improved Triple Nickel Plated Guard. Try the Blade Men swear by Not At 25c'

The Rexall Store ROBERT J. MILLER

PEACE CLUB OPENS CHAPTER

The Green International club, an international organization working for world peace, established a chapter here, Friday.

MEET and EAT at the Locust Lane Sandwich Shop Sandwiches, Cake Fountain Service 214 East Nittany Phone 310

COOL...

Fresh Fruit

Limeade

The Corner unusual

For DECORATION DAY

YOU WILL WANT

New EGOLF'S

- Bag Lingerie
Gloves Beret
Socks Bands
Scarf Hankie

DO YOU INHALE?



A frank discussion at last on a subject that has long been "taboo"



"LET sleeping dogs lie!" So said the cigarette trade when first we raised the subject of inhaling. But dodging an important issue is not Lucky Strike's policy!

Do you inhale? That question is vitally important... for every smoker inhales—knowingly or unknowingly. Every smoker breathes in some part of the smoke he or she draws out of a cigarette! And the delicate membranes of your throat demand that your smoke be pure, clean—free of certain impurities!

No wonder Lucky Strike dares to raise this vital question! For Luckies bring you the protection you want... because Luckies' famous purifying process removes certain impurities concealed in every tobacco leaf. Luckies created that process. Only Luckies have it!

So, whether you inhale knowingly or unknowingly, safeguard those delicate membranes!

"It's toasted"

Your Throat Protection—against irritation—against cough

O K AMERICA

TUNE IN ON LUCKY STRIKE—60 modern minutes with the world's finest dance orchestras, and famous Lucky Strike news features, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening over N. B. C. networks