

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 15, 1934

AN AMERICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT?

3. Student Conservatism

"The Student Awakes!" says the idealist, reading of a new undergraduate interest in contemporary problems. "Impossible," replies the cynic, who is enough of a realist to know that the current student revolts in such colleges as C. C. N. Y. are not typical of the country over.

What is the reason for this conservatism and lack of protest in the student bodies as a whole? Why does the American student bring up the rear in progress, instead of being in the vanguard? One answer, at least, is that the atmosphere surrounding the college student and the background from which he comes are not the sort to breed reaction against the existing order.

Most college students, like most other people, are conformers. Supposedly they are picked men and above the crowd. Yet they respect tradition and fashion in their own circle, submitting unconsciously, and almost willingly, to undergraduate mores. There is a right way and a wrong way to do things, and the true individualist is not welcomed.

Granting this conformity, then, what are the conditions which put a premium upon it and discourage revolt? First, there are the innumerable activities of undergraduate life which so occupy the student's attention that he has little time or inclination for becoming interested in deeper problems. The student is encouraged to "go out" for activities. He becomes engrossed in these because they are "closer home" and he understands them. They are a more real part of his life than the struggles of the workers in a large factory, and he is therefore more interested in them.

Then there are the other spheres of undergraduate activity—subjects which are scarcely calculated to arouse his interest in present-day conditions and problems. He is interested in those things which are more personal to him—his bluebooks, flunks, dates, dances, movies, bridge, radio, and popular magazines. Why should he worry about the implications of unemployment in a remote city, when a discussion of last night's show is much more interesting and less perplexing? Unless, of course, the lack of work affects him personally and is not so detached a thing as mere "unemployment."

A decided lack of contact with pressing problems, until very recently at least, is another reason for the student's apathy. Misery and oppression, as well as some intelligence, breed revolt. The majority of college students have either not experienced any great misery, or, if they have, they have accepted it grudgingly and admirably without thinking through its implications.

Added to the comparative seclusion of the campus in making the student politically and economically conservative, is his background and his reason for being in college. A Columbia University survey made several years ago shows that the fathers of students in fifty-five liberal arts colleges and universities, almost half were engaged in business. Equipped with the attitudes of the money-making class—the men of action, these students could not be expected to adopt the viewpoint of the radicals. If they are not satisfied with the present set-up, they are at least not dissatisfied enough to support anything which would alter it greatly. So they vote for Hoover in their straw polls.

Then, too, the student comes to college not to learn how he might improve conditions or not to seek true knowledge, but to prepare himself for making a living. His college education, he hopes, will improve his chances under a competitive regime. Why should he attempt to change it?

He is therefore not intellectually curious or uneasy. He doesn't have time to be. There are too many things occupying his attention; things which affect him more personally. His classes and lectures, for the most part, fail to arouse any lasting interest in him, and he turns in his leisure moments to the simpler and pleasanter diversions of college life. He is little concerned with attempting to understand and solve the problems facing his generation. Why should he be? Neither his background nor his present environment nor his purpose for being in college encourage it.

ONE OF THE MOST fruitful sources of petty student graft in these days of controlled finances is the matter of key and favor "cutbacks." Partly because

OLD MANIA

It was very annoying. There were a hundred senior E. E.'s in the class and not one of them could fix that broken light socket. Professor Charles Lambert Kinsloe, School of Electrical Engineering, was becoming rather bored with the whole proceedings. It was disturbing to the routine of the class to have all this excitement over an ordinary socket; they didn't really need the light anyway.

He walked over to the offending and stubborn piece of mechanism and tapped it casually with his pointer.

"It's broke," he announced.

We didn't go to Pan Hell Ball. And neither did the Campuser, thank you. Not that we couldn't have gotten in; the matter was all fixed up with the Custodians of the Lists. There just wouldn't have been any sense in our going as Philo Hines wasn't going to be there and Jack Ryan (one of the three who rated special invitations) told us Friday afternoon that he was going to the Venetian Gardens instead.

Besides, the Campuser really doesn't look at all well in an evening gown.

More Pome

The right curve
Adds verve.

Some people are always being misunderstood. King Burke attended a dinner party not so long ago, a very select and respectable affair. During dinner King struck up an acquaintance with a rather charming miss who sat across from him. And before the meal was very far along they were old friends.

Then came catastrophe. In the act of stretching across the table for a cigarette he felt something give and realized that his suspenders had torn loose from their moorings and brought the buttons with them. Being a matter of fact person he explained his predicament to his new feminine pal. She laughed and suggested that they adjourn to the bedroom where she could sew the buttons back on. They did.

All went well and good. They went into the bedroom, she broke out a needle and thread and to simplify matters, he proceeded to divest himself of his pants.

But just then the hostess walked by, and the door being ajar, the picture she got was of the lass sitting demurely on the edge of the bed and King, poor lad, in the most incriminating act of stepping out of his trousers.

Yessir, some people are always being misunderstood.

"College? ... Give me 146, please."
"Good evening. Sigma Tau Phi House..."
"May I speak to Rosenzweig, please?"
"Who's calling Mr. Rosenzweig?"
"Does it really matter?"
"... "Bernie ain't here, Bye."

S'now Fakes

Judy Lasich ex-football captain is married...
Orchids to Patty Lou Bastone... Nancy Fletcher smoked a really-true cigar recently, and maintained her health...
Bob Ellstrom and Blackie reunited...
The Varsity teams can't start practice until five o'clock these days because the coaches don't finish playing handball until then...
What freshman town girl hiked out to the Chi Phi lodge alone Saturday night to date one of their ultra-smooth freshmen?...
More cowbell at basketball games... An orchid to Bill Edwards for his cheerleading...
Director Bezdek, who were the Ragen Colts?

they were forced to it by money-seeking students and partly because they found it good business, jewelry salesmen have been in the habit of offering a small sum to the heads of various student organizations in return for the contract for keys, favors, etc. This year, however, the attitude of several student leaders is more ethical and they have attempted to discourage the practice. This is entirely commendable, but there is no certainty that when these students leave office their successors will be as honest. In order that this practice may be curtailed permanently, the precedent of calling for sealed bids in all jewelry buying should be established. It would be understood, of course, that the bids would be opened at a regular meeting of the organization concerned, and that the lowest bid would be accepted. The lowest price, rather than the biggest "cutback," therefore, would be the basis on which the contract would be awarded, as it should be.

IN ORDER THAT German students, and the German people as a whole, may not be contaminated by the anti-war propaganda of one of their number, iron-man Goering has banned all copies of "All Quiet on the Western Front." Here is a good example of the militarist spirit. When it cannot answer the truth in a thing, it places a ban upon it. When it realizes that its power may be undermined, it uses its only possible weapon, force.

'Collegian' Letter Box

To the Editor:

It is not enough to say that I was dreadfully hurt by your statement that my letter in Monday's COLLEGIAN "might suggest satire." But then isn't it strange what a college education will do for even an editor at times?

Neither your initial column attacking the Senatorial Scholarship awards nor your reiteration in Monday's issue state other than that the peddler in question had "named two State Senators and implicated eighteen more, over a third of the total numbers of Senators." To date the names of the two have not appeared with your writings. Would it not be best to expose them so that their constituents may turn them out at the next election? And further, how can eighteen more be implicated without being named? If this scoop is on the level, let's make the whole thing a matter of public concern so that an irate public can make some adjustment. Returning to the spirit of my first article, "You do great injury to the names of honorable men who have conscientiously administered their awards according to the worth and the need of the applicant." I want to re-emphasize the fact that not all of Pennsylvania's statesmen are guilty of such political chicanery. Nor will I believe that as many as eighteen have been implicated until judicial proceedings justify this claim.

I candidly admit that as yet I haven't been able to find actual record of the fact that "all scholarships are worth \$100 a year." I fell guilty of assuming such was the case on the basis of the amount given here at Penn State. I do not feel, however, that I can be held unforgivable for adopting the COLLEGIAN policy in such matters. Your statement that the \$100 award at Penn State covers the cost of tuition is an error of this sort. Students of Penn State will tell you that there is no tuition charge at State school. In the College Catalogue on page 76 under the heading Senatorial Scholarships we read: "These scholarships entitle the holder to an exemption from the incidental fee of \$100 a year." On page 69 of the same bulletin under the title "Expenses" we also read among the General fees, "Incidental Fee of \$100 per college year as part payment for heating, lighting, and maintenance of classrooms, laboratories, etc." It is therefore evident that an Incidental Fee (the fee which the Senatorial Award covers) is not a tuition fee. Hence, another COLLEGIAN assumption. Q. E. D.

While I'm here at State I'd like to become as liberally educated as possible, if possible. Will you then clarify how and when "evidence" ceases to be "evidence." You write: "There is no evidence of racketeering in the distribution of Penn. State scholarships. But there is enough verbal evidence that some degree of favoritism exists to suggest that a change would be desirable." Intuitive caution must have prompted your use of qualifying words such as "verbal" and "some degree." Yet I feel that verbal evidence doesn't carry much weight. At least, such is not the case in high places. With the good names of our Senators at stake, gossip is unjustifiably malicious.

—ROBERT L. DURKEE '35

(Recognizing the need, the COLLEGIAN wishes R. L. D. the best of luck in his efforts to become liberally educated.)

To the Editor:

For six years I have been popping off about the fact that Eastern basketball was slower than Western because there was too little expert shooting from the floor. Big Ten clubs usually depend upon one or two men with good point averages from beyond the defensive zone to suck the opposition out from the "hole." This serves a double purpose: it gives forwards a better chance to break for the basket; and when the long-shot men are right, it breaks the opposition morale.

Fans of several years ago remember Sortof of West Virginia and Hayman of, I believe, Syracuse. Their time shots from out on the floor wrecked a splendid defense set-up under the basket.

KELLER ANNOUNCES NEW EXTENSION COURSE PLAN

Arrangements for Foremen Training Made by Tyrone Paper Mill

Prof. J. Orvis Keller, head of the department of engineering extension, has just announced completion of arrangements with a large pulp and paper company of Tyrone for an extension program of training for eight groups of foremen. Gilbert D. Thomas, foreman training specialist on the engineering extension staff, will conduct the course of twenty meetings.

This company has used College extension courses to a considerable extent in the past. In 1931 Professor Keller gave a series of lectures on industrial management to thirty-five executives of the company. Each year some of its executives are sent to the campus in June to enroll in industrial management courses offered by the department.

At the present time Mr. Thomas is meeting nine groups of men for extension courses in New Kensington and five groups at a manufacturing concern at Clairton.

It is pleasing, then, to note that Coach Leslie is apparently refusing to spend two minutes at the end of each offensive drive for playing catch. Thomas and Stocker, particularly, are beginning to throw from the floor; and despite the howls of uninitiated local patrons, when and if these boys begin to raise their average (and we admit this is essential) you should see a corresponding sieve-like falling away of the inner works through which MacFarlane and Fletcher may knife into closer scoring position.

Now if Coach Leslie should deny any consciousness of this technique, then I am only fooling.

—Scrub-Prof.

Speaking Of Books

The Romance of the Fur Trade

"Beavers, Kings, and Cabins" by Constance L. Skinner
A romantic book about a romantic period written authoritatively from source material by a scholar. The author grew up in the northern wilds of British Columbia and spent much time among traders and Indians. She devoted most of her time since to writing and exploring. She is a novelist, poet and historian and a Fellow of the American Geographical Society and the Royal Geographical Society. Languages, nationalities and governments were determined by this pioneer industry. The great battle for supremacy in North America was partly won by the colonial fur traders. Beaver is the hero of this book and the fur trade is developed from colonial times to the present.

"The Testament of Youth" by Vera Brittain

One generation which has lost everything speaks a word of warning to all future generations. This is the tragic autobiography of one growing up to young womanhood at the time of the World War who lost friends, relatives, lover as well as hopes and ideals. There are scenes on a doomed hospital ship, of the coming of the Americans and of post war Europe shattered and broken. The writing is of high calibre.

"Ah Wilderness" by Eugene O'Neill

In common with many of his brothers in the fields of the novel and poetry in the same period, Eugene O'Neill is constantly experimenting with new forms and new ideas. "The Strange Interlude" covered a long period of time in presentation. "The Hairy Ape" brought animals into the cast. "Dynamo" included an inanimate mechanical force.

"Ah Wilderness" is a comedy, an American folk play of the recent past and will be received with a pleasure and interest akin to that of Mark Sullivan's "Our Times" and Frederick Allen's "Only Yesterday."

RUSSIA

"Three Cities" by Sholem Asch. St. Petersburg, Warsaw and Moscow appear respectively in a three-part novel, a vast canvass which pictures the story of several Jewish families before and during the Revolution. Here are the tragedies and triumphs of the influential and wealthy Jews as well as those of the destitute and down-trodden element. The last section is largely devoted to the great war in Russia, to the October revolution, and to the gradual development of the Bolsheviks. The author is one of the best living Yiddish writers and has done a notable piece of work.

M. I. BUILDING TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

All Laboratories, Research Projects Will Operate for Visitors

Open house, a popular activity at a number of leading colleges and universities, will be held here for the first time by the faculty and student body of the School of Mineral Industries March 21.

Under the plan, the Mineral Industries building will be thrown open for inspection. All of the laboratories and research projects will be in full operation and both students and members of the staff will be on hand to explain the work.

The program embraces the entire field of the mineral production and primary processing industries such as geology, mining, petroleum and natural gas, fuel technology, metallurgy, and ceramics.

ENGINEERS TO HOLD PARTY

Plans were announced today for the mid-winter Engineering faculty get-together to be held at the Nittany Lion Inn at 8 o'clock Monday night. The committee in charge includes Kapp, Tarpley, Tebo, and Queer.

Hetzel Will Deliver Report Tomorrow

President Ralph D. Hetzel will present his regular report to the board of trustees of the College at their semi-annual meeting in the State Education building at Harrisburg tomorrow afternoon.

It is understood that President Hetzel will discuss the necessity for keeping down the costs to students in order to avoid a large drop in enrollment. Business of the day will also include the election of officers.

KING, PITTSBURGH CHEMIST, TO ADDRESS A. C. S. MEETING

"Vitamin C" will be the title of the lecture to be given by Dr. Charles G. King, of the department of chemistry, at the meeting of the American Chemical Society, Central Pennsylvania section, in the Chemistry Amphitheatre at 7:30 o'clock Thursday night.

Several research men in foreign countries are working on Vitamin C, and Dr. King has made a thorough study of the chemical nature of this vitamin and has published the results. In his lecture he will discuss the chemical and nutritional phases of the subject.

DOELPH '37, ACCIDENT VICTIM, DISCHARGED FROM INFIRMARY

Frederick Doelp '37, injured in an automobile accident Friday, January 5, was discharged from the College infirmary yesterday afternoon while James T. Stott '37, admitted Friday, was discharged Saturday. Joseph E. Hughes '34, admitted Thursday, and Marvin L. Eshelman '35, admitted Saturday, are still patients at the hospital.

James N. Fogg '34, Ann A. Greenwalt '36, and Thomas W. Hamilton '37, admitted yesterday, are also still in the infirmary. A Kenneth Maiers '35 was discharged Thursday from the Centre County Hospital in Bellefonte where he had been under observation for appendicitis.

After NRA, What?

(Continued from page one)

class program aimed to proceed between the excesses of capitalism and Bolshevism. The future course is a difficult one, he added. If the government is too severe with capital and big business, a reaction against the present leveling or socializing will set in the form of a well subsidized dictatorship.

On the other hand, he pointed out, if labor is not amply conciliated, a proletarian revolution with Russian Communism may ensue. The temper of the American people thus far in the depression has been such as to give assurance that a middle-of-the-road program can be carried out by civil processes, Dr. Tanger believes.

"The choice of means will afford ample campaign materials for the two major political parties," he concluded.

120 STUDENTS HEAR DR. CURRY SPEAK

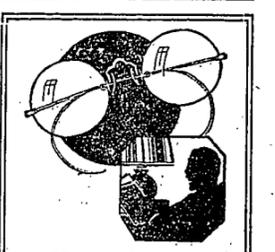
P.S.C.A. Student Movement Conclave Attracts Representatives Of 7 Institutions

With over 120 delegates representing seven colleges and universities, the P. S. C. A. Student Movement conference, which began here Saturday morning, came to its conclusion yesterday afternoon with an address by Dr. A. Bruce Curry, chief speaker and faculty delegates at the Hugh Beaver Room, in Old Main.

Bucknell University had the largest representation at the conclave, with twenty-two men and eight women students registered from that institution. Other colleges represented among the fifty-three delegates were Lock Haven, Bloomsburg, and Mansfield State Teachers colleges, Wilson college, and Susquehanna University.

The conference opened with an address by Dr. Curry on the topic of his new book, "The Bible and the Quest of Life." The second session, conducted by Forrest D. Brown, general secretary of the Bucknell association, was concerned with discussion of attempts to improve Christian Association programs through "Program Building."

Saturday night, following a Student Movement dinner in the Sandwich Shop, which was attended by over 100 delegates and interested Penn State students, another session under the direction of Dr. Curry was held. A "doggie" roast at the Andy Lytle cabin concluded the day's activities. Mr. Brown conducted a session on programs Sunday morning, while Dr. Curry also spoke in chapel Sunday morning.



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