

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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THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 15, 1934

MUCH BETTER

The cap and gown situation, probably the outstanding example of unjustified compensation in last year's Interclass Budget report, has finally been remedied by the recent action of Student Board. The result is that seniors graduating in June this year will have to pay only \$1.75 for the rental of a cap and gown—seventy-five cents less than the charge made last year.

Last year the committee of five and the class president received \$449 for their services in connection with the handling of the outfits. This came from a fifty-cent charge which was added to the list retail price. Some sort of an addition was necessary, furthermore, because the company's agent, who did little more than sign the contract, received the regular agent's commission.

After making inquiries this year, the Board learned that direct dealing between the College and the company was possible, thereby eliminating part of the agent's commission. The resulting saving will be given to the student committee for its services, and no additional fee will have to be added to the list price. Furthermore, a five-year contract lowers the retail price twenty-five cents per outfit.

In addition to the saving to seniors, the compensation to the cap and gown committee will be more in proportion to the work done. The amount received for each cap and gown handled will be approximately twenty-six cents, which is not too much for the time and work involved.

THE PETITION INSTIGATED by Liberal Arts professors to request CWA funds to build more tennis courts here should not be disregarded by College authorities. The fact that approximately 1,700 students and faculty members have signed the petition indicates the wide interest in the project. As the petitioning group has pointed out, the need for more tennis courts here is great. Certainly they would be of more benefit to the students and faculty as a whole than some of the other CWA projects on the campus—regarding the drill field, for instance.

STUDENT UNION FUNCTIONS

Four years ago the Student Union was organized to coordinate all extra-curricular activities and to promote projects that would otherwise not be undertaken by individual groups. Since that time it has proved a necessary adjunct to student government in the regulation of all irregularities that occur in various student organizations. Moreover, it has promulgated plans which are of direct significance to all students.

Since its inception in 1930, a series of dances has been conducted each year to provide inexpensive entertainment for Penn State students. Several of the dances have been held after athletic contests for the benefit of spectators and members of visiting teams. In the past these all-College functions have proved very popular and at least two more will be conducted this semester.

Another project that has been promoted by the Union is the Student Loan fund. Originated three years ago, this has been a means of keeping hundreds of students in College by collective loans amounting to several thousands of dollars. The Loan fund committee devises methods for raising money to be granted to desirable students who are financially restricted. The fund has been augmented from time to time by benefit dances, concerts, and commissions from theatre tickets.

This year the Student Union is cooperating with the Honor Society Council in conducting an investigation of honorary fraternities. It has also been responsible for a bulletin of events in which all future student activities, meetings, lectures, practices, exhibitions, and concerts are made known through semi-weekly publication in the COLLEGIAN. Under the present arrangement all notices are published regularly after they are phoned to the designated places.

The Union calendar, which is maintained at the Union desk on the first floor of Old Main, lists all events scheduled for the remainder of the year. This is highly important because it serves as a clearing house for all activities and seeks to eliminate possibility of scheduling two functions on the same date. This calendar may be consulted and arrangements made accordingly. From this card of events, a mimeographed sheet is sent monthly to all fraternities and dormitories for posting. Although both of the new features have met with hearty response on the part of most societies, every organization is requested to give notification of coming events in order to make the bulletin and calendar still more helpful.

—A. C. H.

CAMPUSEER

BY HIMSELF

Hamas won! And are we proud? Just ask us. You might ask Professor Banner and Dean Stoddart, too, while you're at it. They're proud, too.

Prof. Banner, alias "Mr. Journalism Comes of Age," was so proud that he came to class yesterday morning, slammed a few books around, and beamingly announced, "Well, you can probably attribute Hamas' success to the fact that he once took Journalism 13."

Dean Stoddart, who is an older hand at inter-school rivalry, was just as proud but a bit more subtle. He called in a COLLEGIAN reporter, did some extensive hemming and hawing, and finally got around to revealing the fact that Steve had graduated in the Liberal Arts School. Steve originally matriculated in Ag-ec, transferred to Pre-legal, then tried the Chem School, and finally drifted back into the Liberal Arts fold with a science major.

"And he had better grades his last semester than any other semester that he was in College. He embodies the true spirit of the Liberal Artist. He proves that an L. A. student can go out in most any field and achieve success," the Dean said.

That closed the interview, but there was a little epilogue to the story which we heard while hiding under the Prexie's hat at a Council of Administration meeting yesterday morning.

Dean Stoddart was still raving about the fight (he admits that he's low-brow enough to enjoy a good bout). Director Bezdek was sitting next to him.

"Well, Bez," the L. A. Dean said, "what do you think of the fight?"

Bez turned around, cleared his throat, looked at Mr. Stoddart quizzically, and then said, "What fight?" We suppose that Bez has given up following Hamas' activities. After all, Steve was a subsidized athlete!

We don't bother going to fires here anymore. Right now the fire whistle's shrieking madly but we're ignoring it. We're just going to go on calmly typing. Fires are getting to be pretty tame anymore. The only fire that we're sorry we missed was the huge conflagration that broke out about two weeks ago. We hear that, as usual, it was pretty much of a fake—merely a little smoke coming from a kitchen stove of some sort. There was one fireman on duty; the rest were looking around for something to do until the "fire's out" signal was sounded. There were quite a few spectators on hand. But no cheering, no applauding, no milling crowds. There really wasn't anything to cheer about. In fact, the whole thing was pretty disappointing.

At the crucial point, however, when things were at their lowest ebb, our new Burgess Litzell came to the rescue. He raged about, tore at his hair, and shouted, "This can't go on. I'm the new Burgess around here and I won't have my firemen hampered by a lot of yelling students. Anyone that opens his mouth will be fined fifteen dollars. I'm warning you, keep your mouths closed. I'm the new Burgess around here."

He was quite a success. Things really did seem more interesting. Political diplomacy, we suppose. The electorate must be entertained!

Mr. DeAngelis, the Mighty Organizer, held a meeting of non-fraternity men the other night. During the course of the proceedings, things got pretty boring and several of the bars in attendance began to get sleepy. But Manny met the situation quite adequately. Instead of calling for new business, he pulled out his little ocarina and began a very sweet lullaby.

The members woke up all right. And before Mr. DeAngelis finished the selection somebody had neatly combed his hair with a rotten apple core. (N. B. The meeting was closed in form.)

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Letter Box

To the Editor:

In the "Letter Box" of the Thursday, Jan. 18 issue of the COLLEGIAN, "E. D. '35" comments on the lack of any members of the College teaching staff "with ambition enough to overcome the inertia" of the present "oldest and worst method" of conducting examinations.

"E. D. '35" is entirely unhampered by facts. I know personally of several members of the teaching staff who have been trying some of the several variations of the "oldest and worst method" of examination. I myself, have tried several of the possibly better or at least newer methods. I have used the true and false type of examination, the association of ideas examination, and most of all the oral examination. In all of my classes at the close of the present semester I am using the oral examination entirely. I have been using the oral examination in the smaller classes for at least six years. In some instances most of the questions are asked by members of the class. The candidate passes to the board, the students ask him questions, the instructor interfering only when absolutely necessary to bring the discussion back to the topic or to clear up or emphasize an important point in the discussion. Not only do the students ask questions but each one is asked to grade all the candidates by placing them in the rank they deserve in relationship to other members of the class. The questions asked by the students are fair questions and the student grading is remarkably just and fair. As a matter of fact, the instructor has to "edit" the grades on the plus sides rather than deduct from the student grades.

"E. D. '35," joining in the currently fashionable and perpetual "open season" on college professors, should have done a little research among the faculties of schools other than his own (which one gains by inference is the School of Education). While facts may be a handicap in forming hasty conclusions, they are an aid in arriving at the truth.

I doubt if his faculty, whatever their opinion on the methods of teaching and examinations, would approve of "E. D. '35's" method of conducting educational research.

"E. D. '35" would doubtless be astonished to learn that at least one

technical school of the College has been working for over ten years on definite, concrete plans for improving the teaching in that school. These efforts have consisted of securing several of the outstanding educators in America to come to the campus and conduct classes of instruction for members of the teaching staff of that school. Follow-up classes have been conducted for several years for the faculty in this school. The teaching methods of successful teachers have been studied and analyzed. Since the Dean of this school is very much interested in these improvements, I have heard of no member of the staff either having "his mind changed for him" nor of any member being "fired" as "E. D. '35" postulated would be the fate of those extreme academic variants who might dare to try a few new methods.

—A Professor

To the Editor:

Though most of the events which have taken place in my past years at Penn State may tend to be lost from my memory, there is one incident which I shall always remember: In most miserable experience of my life. It occurred a little more than a week ago, when I spent four hours in the Armory taking Physics examination. . . . it was so cold in there that a polar bear with long underwear could not survive. Well do I realize that the College cannot afford to erect new buildings every few years . . . but surely the collection of fifty dollar "incidental fees" . . . ought to insure enough funds for repairs on an antiquated heating plant.

—T. F. G. '35

9 NEW EXTENSION CLASSES STARTED FOR DAY WORKERS

Nine new engineering extension classes in mathematics, business correspondence, aeronautical engineering, electricity, and law have been formed recently for employees of industrial concerns throughout the State. Classes are being conducted in Harrisburg, Sharpsville, Coatesville, Jeanette, Charlevoix, Philadelphia, Altoona, Oil City, and Clairton.

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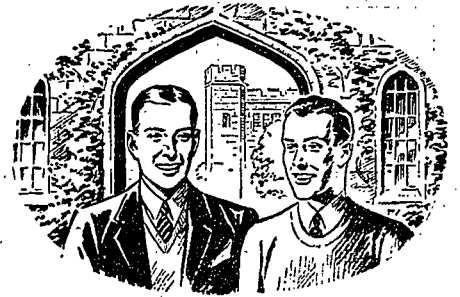
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