PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 5, 1934

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. Farce or Benefit?

"Student self-government on the American campus can never be more than a legend, a legend with many unpleasant associations."

In line with the current tendency to submit established institutions to the test of usefulness, the Syracuse Daily Orange recently published an editorial, containing the above sentence, in which it was pointed out that even the best and most honest student governmental leaders are never more than "errand boys" for the College administration. "Tear up our toy constitutions and scrap our puppet senates" was the conclusion reached.

Although we are ignorant of the conditions on the Syracuse campus which gave rise to the editorial, it is safe to say that they are fairly general. There can be no denial of the statement that students govern themselves only with the permission of university administrations and that the final responsibility does not rest with the students. It is also true that student leaders often serve as "buffers" between the administration and

Yet the issues are these: Do the current conditions justify tearing up constitutions for the sake of definitions? Would complete student responsibility be desirable? Are there no good points in the present set-up?

Granting that student government here or elsewhere is not completely in control, it is doubtful just what benefits would result from its abolition. Even under a half-way system there are certain advantages. First of all, it is better for the students if they are given some control over their own affairs. If there were no student agencies for this sort of thing and the entire control were left in the hands of the administration; then the next generation of students would be yelling for some measure of control, at least. A cynic might say that students like to be fooled into believing that they are governing their own affairs. But the fact that they do is enough to justify some sort of organization for directing student affairs.

Even if the student senates are "puppet senates," there is some good in them. Training in leadership" is a trite expression but its much if connection with student government has been diministed. The student who holds a governmental position gets some valnable experience in dealing with people. His responsibility may not be final. Yet he will be called upon many times to make quick decisions, to organize groups of students, to pick his head men, to iron out difficulties between two parties, and to settle numerous other questions. Therein lies the value of student governmental work as training for future positions of lead-

One undesirable feature about student government 'must be admitted. When election to an office breeds the attitude that now is the time to make a little pocket money, then some change is necessary. The sight of student leaders making "graft" is detrimental to a healthy attitude on the part of the student body as a whole, and is certainly not desirable "training" for the leaders themselves. Much of the present administrative control of dances, etc., was a result of prevalence of this attitude here several years ago. Certainly complete student responsibility was undesirable in this case. and a certain amount of administrative check was ins-

(A second editorial on this subject, will be published in the next issue. It will discuss what student government at Penn State has accomplished this near and what might be done in the future.)

IS SPECIALIZATION PARAMOUNT?

Although it has been contended in the past that jack-of-all-trades is unable to maintain his position of importance, the subject seems more than pertinent today with the rapid advancement that is being made in specialized sciences. The "specialists" onine that a single curriculum must be religiously pursued if a definite station in life is to be acquired. They further assert that general knowledge of subjects is undesirable for one's own personal welfare because it does not qualify in attaining any technical skill.

While it may be granted that specialization is necessary in all technical branches, yet to disregard the group of "culture" students is unfair. They maintain that to grasp specialized courses would be to narrow the world's cultural outlook. They have no intentions of mastering any specific subject, but prefer to take a smattering of several, believing that this will give them the most lasting benefit.

The "specialist" selects his course and studies assidiously until he masters it. Yet even after he has aconived all the fundamentals of the course, there is a possibility that something may go awry to make his chosen vocation distasteful. Since he is highly specialized, however, deviation is difficult. He often must continue even though his life's profession is unsatisfactory.

But the "culture" student who has chosen a differ-

CAMPUSEER

BY HIMSELF

It was in the midst of a last-minute rush home for Easter that Tony Robeson, Phi Psi from Indiana, decided to take his white bucks along after all. He pulled them out of the clothes press, jammed them into his suitcase and departed for Indiana. When he reached home and examined the shoes he found they needed a few minor repairs such as new heels and soles. Tony not only had them repaired but also cleaned and recoated. He was all ready for spring in the Nittany valley.

He returned here yesterday and tried the shoes. They seemed a little large and he wondered if his feet had shrunk. They hadn't. He became sure of this when he discovered that the white shoes belonged to his roomie. Don Sanders, who was duly grateful for the improvements.

A lot of important people, it seems, didn't join the emigration last week. They liked State College. Among the waiting-for-school-to-begin-ers was Bill VanKeuren, hurdler par excellence, Bezdek-baiter consistent, and punster lousyxtraordinary. Another tragic figure was the editor of the local so-called

Monday night was a right nice night, except for one thing. There was definitely but little doing in town. But Wood wouldn't be stopped. He thought of something. He broached the subject to Van-Keuren, who was dubious. Wood, it appears, thought a spot of ale might go well. VanKeuren didn't. But Wood persuaded him, Here's how, Wood declared solemnly that he'd run a mile around the track, and in addition, would gallop over five flights of hurdles at the mere VanKeuren whim if the latter, would accompany the ailing party. Wood got his ale, and immediately afterward, a terrible jolt-Van wanted the athletic display NOW. . . .

The track was wallowing in the moonlight as the comic editor got down to fundamentals in the matter of clothing and started his journey. One lap. Two laps, three laps. Would the man never stop! He lagged, and the vicious Van urged him heartlessly on. Painfully, the 'funny-man' completed his tour, fell completely flat on the cinders. He was tired.

You'd think that was enough? No! VanKeuren had to have his full sixteen ounces of the discouraged Wood's flesh. "After all, palsic, a bargain is a bargain," he muttered effecturatingly. Ragon hands lick ed the idioter up, faced him towards the hurdles, and pushed. Woody picked up speed, leaped, and CRASH

picked the hero up, took him home, and put him to bed.

STOOGES-Subbing for Campy.

ent manner of rationalization is not in the same category. In college, he is content with general knowledge of art, history, sociology, and other subjects because it gives him a broader point of view. Nothing 'practical" is obtained, yet his imaginaton is enhanced. He assimilates and promulgates new ideas. He becomes happy for it empowers him to be resourceful in several

The "culture" student may spend four years here an expensive apprenticeship, yet the expense is justified by the knowledge that he has obtained a general appreciation of a large number of subjects. His ideas are not bound within narrow compasses; he is not restricted wiht certain conventions. His actions are not limited to narrow confines nor is his ratiocination -A. C. II.

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THE ATHLETIC STORE On Co-op Corner

Apology

On Thursday, March 22, there appeared in the Campuseer column of this paper a reference to Bur-

The Collegian board now considers that comment an inexcusable act, and hereby apologizes to Mr. Leitzell and those other named persons for causing t unwarranted embarrassment.

Library Building

This is the second of a series of short messages from Willard P; Lewis, College Librarian, explain-ing the need for a new library here. Prof. W. T. Gerould of the Princeon University Library, an authority and writer of the only adequate volume on college and university library buildings, estimates that each assistant in the catalogue department should have, including space for LEAVE TO TAKE C. C. C. WOR necessary furniture, the movement of book trucks, etc., an allowance of one

In this College library we have a small narrow catalogue room with an available working area of 270 square feet for desks for five assistants, book trucks, aisles, shelving, etc., where we should have approximately 1,000 square feet. Through this small, narrow room are flowing a constantly increasing flood of books to be catalogued. In 1928-29 it amounted to 4,500 volumes. In 1933-34, the current year, it will amount of 9,000 volumes, thus doubling the amount in five years time.

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LONG ILLNESS CAUSES DEATH OF '84 GRADUATE

ormer Board of Trustee Member Dic At Home in Scranton March 16

Last member of the class of 1884 Milton W. Lowry, former member of the Board of Trustees, died at his home in Scranton on March 16, after a long period of illness. He had been practicing law since 1886.

Had he lived, Mr. Lowry nave been the only member left to observe the fiftieth anniversary of the class at the Alumni Day exercise in June. He is survived by his wife and one son, Robert, who reside in

Mr. Lowry was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1907 and served until 1923, when he resigned because of poor health. He was admitted to the bar in 1886, and was married on

LEAVE TO TAKE C. C. C. WORK

nook truess, etc., an anowance of one book shelves, shelf-list, supply closets, positions with the Pennsylvania Deaisles, etc., amounting to an equal partment of Forests and Waters as amount of space. Recently creeted well as with departments of this nacollege and university library buildings are making adequate provision |
for the working comfort of the library |
staff. |
In this College library we have a |
Perguson, head of the department.

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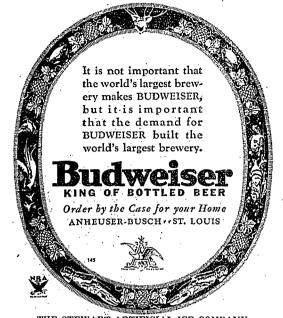
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To PENNSYLVANIA DAIRYMEN
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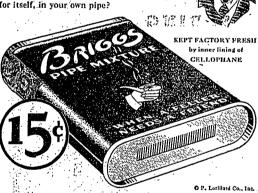


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