

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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Associated Collegiate Press - 1913 (renewed 1927) (incorporated) 1934 '35

MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 16, 1934

WHAT CAN A COLLEGE PAPER DO?

Beginning with the next issue, a new senior staff will guide the policies of this paper. Like their predecessors for countless years, they will enter office filled with new ideas and enthusiasm for change.

This year has been no editors' paradise. Attempts to raise the editorial policy above intellectual complacency have sometimes met with the rebuffs of conflicting interests.

An audit of the year is in order. Has the COLLEGIAN really done anything? The answer would have to be that it has only partially fulfilled the possibilities open to it.

Yet there is a feeling that some progress has been made. The reduction in the cap and gown fee with a saving to seniors of \$3.00, passed by Student Board, was the outcome of an initial investigation and suggestion by this paper.

The accusation of a "stodgy student press," however, has been a real one. The explanation is not simple. Certainly there has been no administrative censorship of the sort that occasionally appears in other colleges.

This unconscious (or conscious) influence seems to be typical of newspapers in general. The difference in editorial policy seems to be the difference between the "ins" and the "outs."

Those who ask complete freedom from restraint of a college paper, therefore, ask more than they realize. Unless the editors have that mixture of courage and insanity which few possess, their utterances are bound to be tempered by thoughts of the consequences and considerations of personal contact always present in the inner circles of the student body.

OLD MANIA

The Penn State COLLEGIAN isn't the only rag that years after news to the point of making it up out of their head. Direct proof of the foregoing statement may be found in the columns of the renowned Pittsburgh Press of April 4.

It seems that three Pittsburgh maidens were the proud possessors of bids from the Phi Gamma Delta house. Sister Adele then paints a beeyootiful picture of what said maidens were to enjoy.

Saturday morning passes like a dream while the three Pittsburgh females "take horseback rides or hikes." Attendance at an athletic event and an afternoon tea fills the afternoon.

"After the dinner comes the formal dance. It is then that the visitors look their prettiest, in smart gowns which many of them have purchased just for the houseparty."

Sister Adele rings the curtain down with a tender tableau that tugs at your heartstrings. "The station at Bellefonte is a colorful place at the conclusion of the houseparty week-end with boys bidding their young friends 'goodbye' and attractive young girls boarding the train for home."

We got another item for our book on "Life Among the Aborigines" yesterday. One of our well-known ornaments of higher education came to Doc Dunaway's class under the influence.

The Alpha Chi Sigs and the Phi Sows joined up to do some dancing at the Nittany Lion on Saturday. The Brothers Phi Psi had not recked with the cunning ways of the Alpha Chi Sigs, however.

The COLLEGIAN board made a lot of enemies Sunday night. The colossal blowout that follows COLLEGIAN elections, for which COLLEGIAN men starve themselves for weeks in order to eat as much as they possibly can, is usually held in the Corner Room and can easily be located by the swarms of overloving "pals" that surround the COLLEGIAN booth to eat on the new editor.

BOOK SALE

April 16 to April 21

Publishers Reminders

LIBRARY BOOKS

SHELF-WORN

GENERAL BOOKS

All at Greatly Reduced Prices

Keeler's

Cathaum Theatre Building

One week April 16 to April 21

Footlights

"My Stars," produced by the Penn State Thespians, under the direction of J. Ewing Kennedy, in Schwab auditorium Saturday night. Cast: Bill Morrison—Donald H. Dixon Doc—William A. Mechesney Bing—Ralph B. Vance Marge—Helen C. Whelan Fran—Jane A. Parker Babe—Helen E. Taylor Spike Hoyt—John E. Binns Pooch Riddell—James S. Norris Jake Wiggins—Mahlon L. Heist Bill Morrison—Donald H. Dixon Polly Walters—Frances Christine Elmer—Samuel Wolfson Babs Wilson—H. Grace Baer Fluffy Fiske—William E. Edwards Professor Louis Benson—Jules Vernik Colonel Tomlinson—Richard W. (Grant Tom, Dick, Howie—Norman Holland, Isadore Levinson, Ira Sendroff.

Taking a cast of over seventy-five musicians, dancers, singers, and principals, and moulding the mass into a complete, satisfactory entertainment is no easy task. In "My Stars," presented to an appreciative Interfraternity Ball week-end audience Saturday night, "Sock" Kennedy did just that.

As Babs Wilson, ingenue lead, Grace Baer did an excellent job of playing the "little innocent," while the only fault of Don Dixon, as her hard-worn football hero, was that he just wasn't quite perfect enough to fill the role of the absurdly popular stage hero.

The fault, however, seems to us to lie more with the role than with the actor. "Bill Morrison" was a too impossible person. Judgment of spectators seemed to be that Dixon did as good a job of attempting to humanize the role as could be expected.

As the villainess who turns out to have a heart of gold at the end, Frances Christine, borrowed from the Glee Club for the occasion, did noble work. Her excellent voice put over the one scene that would otherwise have been pretty much of a flop, the "There Must Be a Santa Claus" number.

Helen Taylor and Bill Edwards, comedy leads, were vivacious enough to carry their parts, and yet almost reserved enough to remind us of people we know hereabouts. We liked them a lot, and if their return bow at the end of their "I'm All Agog" number meant anything, the rest of the audience certainly did too.

Probably the most convincing cast-member was the super-super-toughie, Spike Hoyt, who just didn't like the idea of losing his "gal," Babe (Helen Taylor). The contrast of his bulk opposed to the slender Bill Edwards put the dormitory room scene (Helen was under the bed) over as one of the best set-ups of the show.

On Other Campuses

A new discovery by an Ohio State University scientist. "Too much studying and close work are the major causes for the weak and strained eyes of many students," stated Dr. Clarence R. Ellis, of the department of applied optics.

A "Penny Toaster"—marshmallow roast with an one-cent cover charge—was held at Oberlin College to raise funds to buy ping pong equipment.

They don't believe in old-fashioned superstitions at Carleton College. Thirteen seniors have just been elected to their chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Co-eds Beware! A librarian of the British Phrenological Society recently maintained that flat-headed men are conceited and faithless.

West Virginia University faculty members conduct annual fire schools to aid in training village firemen throughout the state.

Co-eds at the Michigan State Normal College have organized their own prom. This year they are calling it "County Fair."

A vote is being conducted on the West Virginia University campus to determine the size of the diplomas the seniors will receive at graduation.

The present college girl is a well-balanced picture of courtesy, enthusiasm, cheerfulness, and courage, according to Dean V. C. Gildersleeve, of Barnard College.

FERA projects at Westminster College include window washing and floor polishing.

Dr. H. B. Schaeffer, president of Lenoir-Rhyne College, resigned recently because the board of trustees

duced seemed out of place. "There Must Be a Santa Claus," and "Drink A Bromo," although well-enchanted, just didn't seem to have any spot in the production. They were separate entities, good enough by themselves, but seemingly inserted for no particular reason.

With the singers, we have no particular quarrel, except to remark (as did many other spectators) that it's too bad that Grace Baer couldn't have been used for more musical parts. Frances Christine was good, and carried off her part with ease.

When we looked at the ten-scene schedule as listed on the program, we visualized endless waits for a lackadaisical stage crew to get the scenery shifted. We didn't find them. Whether it was the excellent music of Duke Morris's aggregation, the speed of the crew, or the atmosphere, we don't know.

Chorus work seems to have dropped off a great deal. There were more famous names in the women's chorus but there seemed to be fewer good dancers. The names look good in announcements and on the program, but dancing looks good on the stage, and the women's chorus only once (in the "Take The Tempo") seemed able to forget their worries, and their positions, and dance.

Individual men, Ralph Vance and Bill Mechesney did excellent work—they actually seemed to have a little life. The Baer-Vance-Mechesney impromptu dance was the most realistic of the whole program.

Altogether, however, we'll repeat what we started out with... not as good as previous shows, perhaps, but excellent entertainment for the week-end.

—First Nighter.

In Our Faculty...

"Versatile" is the adjective which comes closest to describing Dr. Eugene C. Woodruff, of the department of electrical engineering. He has several noteworthy electrical inventions to his credit; he owns and operates one of the most complete amateur radio stations in the State; he is one of the three members of the Engineering faculty who have doctor's degrees; and he is a talented musician.

Among his inventions which have wide commercial use are a control device for multiple unit electrical cars, and an improved method of transformer coupling in radio. Dr. Woodruff is also fond of inventing gadgets which would make Rube Goldberg turn green with envy.

One of his favorites is an invention which he made for his automobile to insure against its being stolen. In order to unlock the transmission, one must give the horn a loud and resounding honk, turn the key, and then sound the horn again.

Before the recent depression hit the automobile industry, he received a free Duesenberg each year as partial payment for devices which he invented for that car. As a musician, Dr. Woodruff can play competently on nearly a dozen instruments. Before his hands were injured a few years ago, he was the regular organist at Sunday chapel.

refused to eliminate football as an intercollegiate sport at that institution.

"Resolved: We are becoming a race of lunatics," was the subject of a recent freshman-sophomore debate at Albany (N.Y.) State College for Teachers.

They've found him at last! "Anthony Adverse Is Now in College Library," is a headline in the Western State Teacher's College paper.

The Campus, student newspaper at the College of the City of New York, is making arrangements with a fish dealer to sell back issues of its paper to the merchant for wrappings for herrings.

National Student Federation Completes Expansion Plans

NEW YORK, (NSFA)—Plans for expansion of the National Student Federation, authorized by the delegates to the Ninth Congress held in Washington last December, have been completed, according to an announcement by John A. Lang, President of the Federation. The plan provides for the appointment of an Executive Secretary to coordinate the work of the four projected departments of the Central Office, and a travelling secretary to facilitate the work of the local committees in the member colleges.

"Once this step has been taken," said Mr. Lang, "we feel sure from the increasing support which students have given the work of the N.S.F.A. during the last nine years that they will be sufficiently interested in it to make financially possible the establishment of the larger organization. Thus we are at present attempting to finance, through outside means, only the services of the Executive Secretary and the Travelling Secretary."

The four departments to be set up

in the Central Office will provide for the apportionment of the work already being done and the addition of a number of services which the Federation has so far had no facilities to initiate. National Affairs, International Affairs, Campus Affairs and Publicity will each be in the charge of a secretary who will be under the supervision of the Executive Secretary. Local committees in the member colleges will comprise representatives for each of the departments in the Central Office, utilizing wherever possible organizations already existing on the campus, such as international clubs, civic organizations, etc.

"An essential part of the entire program," according to Mr. Lang, "is cooperation with other student groups working in the field; for we do not seek to duplicate, but rather to coordinate the efforts of many groups into a larger program."

The plan is being submitted to the members of the N.S.F.A. for their consideration.

New Library

This is the third of a series of letters by Willard P. Lewis, College Librarian. This article deals with the necessity of adequate reading rooms.

In order to fulfill its function adequately and efficiently in the college and university of today, the library must provide quiet, comfortable, adequately heated, lighted and ventilated reading-room facilities so that from one fifth to one fourth of the student body may be cared for at one time. That this is a low estimate is agreed by library building authorities and larger provision is being made in the recently erected building.

In the Pennsylvania State College library there are reading-room accommodations at the present time for approximately six hundred readers including the facilities at the central library and branches. Considering our present study body of approximately 4500 and resident faculty of approximately 700 there should be at least 1000 seats in the central library alone instead of 350.

In addition to crowded conditions during certain hours of the day, the heating and ventilating arrangements are out of date, inefficient, and unsatisfactory. The main reading room is open to the roof and the alcove rooms open into it resulting in an echo of all conversation and other noises. All borrowers entering by the front door must

go through this reading room to get to the charging desk which adds to the noise and general confusion.

In the reserve book room in the basement the floor is concrete which adds greatly to the noise and disturbance of readers and here again the ventilation and heating and also the lighting are unsatisfactory. It is highly important that we provide adequate and hygienically satisfactory conditions in order that the readers may achieve the best results.

KIRK, WYLAND WILL ADDRESS PITTSBURGH EDUCATION SOCIETY

Prof. Mabel E. Kirk and Mary Jane Wyland, of the department of education and psychology, will speak at a meeting of the Progressive Education association which will be held in the William Penn hotel, Pittsburgh, April 20-21. Plans for desirable educational adjustments will be made at the convention.

Professor Kirk will speak on "Adapting Changing Educational Methods to Public Schools." She will also talk on "The New Teacher." "Redirection of Sanctuaries Education" is the topic which Professor Wyland will discuss.

HOFFMAN TO VISIT CINCINNATI

William S. Hoffman, College registrar, left yesterday for Cincinnati where he will attend a convention of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars.



Selling by telephone gets results. In many lines of business, salesmen are finding they can cover more customers more often—and close more sales at lower cost—by telephone.

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