

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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PROBLEMS VS. PROBLEMS

Delegates to the recent N. S. F. A. convention returned with the idea that the organization has little to offer Penn State. Their argument seems to be based on two points: first, that the Federation spent entirely too much time discussing national and international problems, and second, that our system of student government is so far advanced that the Federation had little to offer in way of assistance.

At first glance, the first point seems absurd. Certainly, there are few matters more important to the average undergraduate than the war that is going to creep around the munitions plants' corner as soon as this country is "prepared" for it, than the relative values of fascism, communism, socialism, or whatever form of government is going to lead us back to the Mecca so glibly described by the President as "recovery."

Certainly the economic system of the future is quite a bit more significant than the question of the best way to conduct class dances. It would be a good thing if some way were found to bring a few significant issues back to this campus. For a supposedly intellectual center, one interested in pertinent topics, Penn State probably knows as little about national problems as any area of equal size in the world.

The old cry, "I'm too busy even to read the newspapers," is the most biting indictment against the minds of undergraduates that could be made. Hence, if a convention could stir up a bit of thought, any money invested would be worth while. The whole question would be as to a method of transcribing such information to the complacent masses.

On the other hand, there is a definite need for a body which can and will discuss intelligently certain campus problems. The question of freshman orientation, for example, is one that is becoming more and more pertinent, while there are others which deal with equally important subjects.

It is imperative, before Penn State joins this organization next year, that the object be known definitely. If it is merely a question of administrative routine, unquestionably some other association might be more desirable.

MANY STUDENTS UNDOUBTEDLY will take advantage of the new Library hours through which reference books and periodicals will be available until eleven o'clock every night the last two weeks before examination. If the plan proves popular, undoubtedly another semester will find reserve books available for a similar period of time.

As is every other department, the Library is handicapped by inadequate finances. This may be the cause of such customs as that of keeping closed departmental libraries about the campus. It is to be hoped that eventually, ways will be found that such reference rooms can be available for that time when a student is most apt to do a little reading that is not absolutely essential—Sunday afternoon.

THE REVERED BOROUGH authorities might well consider cleaning up State College as to clogged street sewers which bring about inundated sidewalks in various parts of the town. Then, too, cindered cross-streets would be greatly appreciated by those motorists who obey the asinine stop signs guarding that through boulevard, Beaver avenue.

250,000 CLAMS

Subscribers to the Boston Advertiser a few days ago read startling headlines which intimated that 250,000 students demanded the immediate investigation of Communist activities on campuses throughout the country. It was based on an interview given by John A. Lang, head of the N. S. F. A.

Of course, the whole thing was garbled in traditional Hearst style, but the thread of the thought itself was highly inaccurate. Lang said that the 250,000 students he claimed to represent did not want Communism or any other 'ism' in our institutions. He intimated that it was becoming a real menace in American colleges.

Apparently, Mr. Lang belongs to that misguided minority which believes that the best way to conduct government is to stifle all thought. He seems to be satisfied with present setups and reluctant to accept any changes which might be better.

It is true that there are a few dyed-in-the-wool radicals in every college. But too, it is sadly true that the present system of government is one of the most inefficient possible. Only by open-minded discussion can a better system be evolved.

OLD MANIA

New Way To Pass Finals

Like every other dope who's been figuring on getting around to that Psych class as soon as the semester got a little underway, we were panicky when we observed the exam schedule all over the back page of this sheet Friday. But we're worried no longer—we've found a new way to study, and, just to show how big-hearted we are, we'll tell you all about it, just like they do during freshman week and in the Education School classes.

Jack Parsky, one of the lesser arc-lights of the Phi Sigma Delta shack used the system first, and it worked marvelously. Jack (They call him 'Rip' at the house, on account of how he sleeps all the time ((funny fellows these Phi Sigs)) had been having a hell of a time keeping on the books. He'd just got his knees comfortably tucked in behind the edge of his desk drawer, ready for a serious evening, when someone would come in—and that would be that, no study.

Now Jack, although not exactly brilliant, has a good idea once in awhile, and the other night, with the expert (see ad due east of this column) assistance of one Herm Kail, hypnotist extraordinary, one worked. Mr. Parsky merely arranged for Mr. Kail to hypnotize him. Mr. Kail did, with alacrity. While 'under the spell,' or whatever you are under while hypnotized, Parsky was instructed to get to work immediately, and if anything happened to go to a quiet place where he could keep on grinding. He was also instructed that if anyone should come to his room, to throw them the hell out. Then Mr. Kail brought Mr. Parsky out of the trance.

It worked, as we said. Parsky went to his room and started studying—first he wrote a thousand-word theme, and then started in on some reviewing. Accidentally-like, the lights in the upper part of the house went out. 'Rip' picked up his book, sought a bridge lamp in the club room, and went on with his work. Pretty soon the lights came on again, and Parsky returned to his own desk.

Just to test the final instruction, the expert hypnotist thrust his face inquisitively inside the student's room, and then sauntered in. Quite according to his own rules, he got 'tossed the hell out.'

(The phone number is on the ad—we've done our part towards a higher all-college average!)

F. Cupid Neusbaum

"Attorney At Law," they tell us, is going to be quite a play, in spite of a little trouble they had at the start. Luke Brightman plays 'he,' and Virginia ('Gin,' if you know her well enough). Swart, the pride of the Class of '38, is the 'she.' Virginia (We don't know her very well) and Luke make love. They didn't get around to the right technique for awhile, until Frank Neusbaum, the director, took a hand in affairs. He told them, right out, like that, and since then they've been doing much better. So much better, in fact, that the other night the now loving couple finished a scene (on stage), went into another one (off stage), and then wandered on for their next appearance. There had been a slight change, though. On Virginia's proud breast there reposed the sacred pin of the order of Beta Theta Pi.

Gang War Brewing

Things have been pretty quiet round about Chicago the last year or so, except for an occasional killing. The Sigma Pi frat here, however, doesn't like all this peace, and they're going to do something about it. Two loyal bros., it seems, are slightly at odds, and the explosion into actual combat is expected at any minute.

It's a great game. Eddie Geyer (intramural mosquito-weight boxer), and Bill Harvey, nephew of the mayor (think of it!) of no less a burg than Seranton, are the offended parties. Mr. Geyer, it seems, had himself a friend, one Anita. Mr. Harvey stepped out and gathered himself a large chunk of the young lady's affections. So now Eddie's mad, and seeing as how Eddie is, Willy is too.

The Phi Eps are selling window seats for the fray at two bits apiece, reserved.

About Town & Campus: Olin Butt forces a whole steamship company to change their routine—he wanted 'hamburg and onions' included on their seven-teen-page menu—and got it... Zerby Club gentlemen have lovely voices, the ladies next door, in the Ivy Inn, inform us... Pet Peeve—against those persons of low intelligence who think it 'just too, too funny' to tear loose with an alarm clock, right in the middle of an interesting bit of dialogue, at the movies... Latest offenders this week—the A. K. Pi's... Our hearts stopped last week when we beheld members of Mr. George Ebert's New Jersey tree commission welding axes in front of the Women's Building... we had fears for our old friend—the Ghinko tree, but it seems to have stayed up... Fash of the week—the Dugan-Goldsmith fray... a church window is threatened with having King Burke's amiable map as part of a new stained-glass design—the gent that's making the new window took a fancy to the Burke countenance, and sort of included him, it seems... Members of the Froth staff are heckling the gentlemen on this newspaper again—maybe the campus will have sump'n screamingly funny to read pretty soon.

—THE MANIAC

"Here's to the Young Men of the World"



Rollin Kirby, in the New York World Telegram

Tests Indicate Textile Merchants Mislead Public on Quality of Fabrics, Mack States

You may buy your shirts secure in the belief that the "pre-shrunk" label on the collar will end your worries about receding sleeves and strangling collars, but you are being partly fooled because, in many cases, only a part of the shirt has received the anti-shrinkage treatment, according to the investigations of Dr. Pauline Beery Mack, associate professor of chemistry.

"Shirts are often sold as 'pre-shrunk' when the meaning of the term is not standardized and implies nothing," Dr. Mack said.

Advocating the informative labeling of commercial textiles, Dr. Mack said that information on the quality and durability of goods is rarely passed on to the public. The ultimate buyer, with few exceptions, she said, gets a prize package when purchasing textile merchandise, even when it is labeled, because labels are often times deliberately misleading.

Citing an example of this practice, Dr. Mack pointed out that many bluntings which are labeled "part wool" actually contain less than 1 per cent wool, unless they carry a specification label of the U. S. Department of Commerce. The practice of specifying wool content, she said, is little known, and the majority of consumers are unaware of it.

"One of the greatest abuses of textile fibres in history," Dr. Mack stated, "is the practice of 'weighting' silk, a process which consists of immersing it in various solutions of the salts of lead, tin, zinc, iron, and aluminum. This practice, which has achieved widespread use since the introduction of synthetic fabrics, causes the material to appear to be of better grade than the actual amount of silk present would warrant.

"When subjected to the weighting process, pure silk, which is the strongest of all textiles in its unadulterated state, becomes the weakest, after being worn a few times. When exposed to light for a period of a few weeks, leaded silks have been found to crumble to fine powder."

Dr. Mack stated that not only are weighted silks lacking in durability, but they tend to have a toxic effect on weavers, especially those silks weighted with lead. In order to find the poisonous effect of lead-weighted silks on animal tissues, Dr. Mack, collaborating with Miss Polly E. Kissinger, a graduate student, placed rats in leaded silks. They found that rats which had chewed on the silks had a deposition of lead in their bones at the end of the experiment, while rats which had merely been in contact with the silks, developed serious dermatitis without exception.

As a remedy for the misinformation of the consumer regarding purchases of fabrics, Dr. Mack believes that the sale of textiles should be rationalized by some method which would enable the consumer to recognize the quality of what he is buying on sight. She suggested that this could be brought about by correct labels informing the buyer of the durability and color fastness of the fabrics, under certain conditions of wear. Fabrics which present a hazard during wear should be removed from the market, and to this end, Dr. Mack stated, legislation, should be enacted.

Hirsch, Erdman Differ On N.F.S.A. Viewpoint

(Continued from page one)

"Military training and F. E. R. A. education relief were discussed, but only one day was devoted to practical student government problems," Miss Erdman explained. "We received no help with our problems, but were able only to advise others."

Hirsch added that he believed that the newly elected set of officers might improve conditions and would work less for their own individual advancement and more for the advancement of the Federation than did the last set. He characterized the retiring officers as "good windbags." It was explained that the \$40 dues for the men have already been paid for next year. For several years past the men's student government has donated sufficient money to meet the cost for both men's and women's government groups, but this year this apportionment was reduced and the women paid no dues although sending a delegate and paying her expenses. The decision as to whether a women's delegate shall go next year is up to the Women's Senate.

Co-Edits

The social side of women's fraternity life will be at its best on the night of January 25—for Panhellenic Ball. It will be held as usual at the Nittany Lion Inn—music by Bill Bottorf. This being the night when the women receive all blame or credit for the success of the dance, it can probably be counted upon to have all the makings.

The Thetas are being more than usually ambitious this year and are having, in addition to their pledge dance held with the Phi Gams in November, a formal dinner-dance at the Nittany Lion Inn on February 22. Bill Bottorf has been engaged to play.

No plans have yet been made, but the Kappas have made assertions that they will have their annual dinner-dance at the Nittany Lion Inn early in the Spring.

A new anchor was presented to each of the eight Delta Gamma initiates at the formal ceremony held at the Delta Gamma house Sunday.

5 Readings Scheduled

Continuing from where they ceased before the Christmas vacation, the second series of fireside readings will begin in the second floor lounge, Old Main, tomorrow. Readers scheduled thus far are: tomorrow, Prof. Lucretia V. T. Simmons, of the German department; January 16, Prof. Joseph F. O'Brien, of the public speaking department; January 23, Prof. Pauline A. Locklin, of the English literature department; February 13, Prof. Mason Long, of the English literature department; February 20, Prof. Robert E. Dengler, of the department of classical languages.



Friday, January 11

Schwab Auditorium

Matinee at 4 O'Clock

"Uncle Remus"

Tickets—25 Cents

Evening Performance

8:20 O'Clock

"Faust, the Wicked Magician"

Tickets—50 Cents

Tickets Now at

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Georgic (Cunard White Star) on her Christmas

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Call Chris Selinitz at 171