

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

Successor to The Free Lance, established 1887

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Tuesday, November 5, 1935

REV. WEIMER'S LETTER

Rev. G. Cecil Weimer's is the best letter the COLLEGIAN has received from an anti-beer adherent. He has put his addled cohorts to shame with the pertinence of his questions.

The first two of his questions were answered in Friday's COLLEGIAN, and space does not permit taking them up again. It might be well to state here, however, that the COLLEGIAN business staff has never had a really hard time financing the paper and that the cost of the free papers is easily absorbed by the increase in subscriptions.

As for the rest:

(3) The survey taken by Professor Bowman has shown, as stated in the front page editorial, that 56.8 per cent of the student body are beer drinkers. It may be correctly assumed that a larger percentage are in favor of its retention.

(4) This question and the next (5) may well be answered together. Although no figures are available, the testimony of local residents and faculty people unanimously states that prior to repeal the student drinking problem was of graver concern than at present. Since even the COLLEGIAN cannot chart the future, we must accept that we shall return to such conditions, and even conditions much worse than during the days of national prohibition, because now the only law against the bootlegger will be selling without a license and manufacturing it. The old laws concerning transportation and possession will be of no use.

Muskingum College students exist under complete repeal in the town of New Concord, Ohio. The town is smaller than State College. Students visited the nearby town of Zanesville, during prohibition and later. Muskingum College authorities realized the acuteness of the problem. There were several expulsions, and much unpleasantness for the college when students were arraigned on charges of drunkenness in Zanesville. The college authorities, however, could find no solution because the voters of the town had saddled them with a local option outlawry of beer.

Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., was overrun with bootleggers during prohibition, and when the town outlawed beer, the bootlegging gentry remained and flourished.

(6) No figures on the proportion of minors in the student body were available as we went to press.

(7) The COLLEGIAN cannot legislate on the virtue of any particular advertiser, in the same way that the Centre Daily Times is editorially pro-beer, but accepts huge advertising lineage from the Laymen's Dry Committee and Ministerium.

MRS. BLACK'S LETTER

In the Letter Box on this page may be found a letter from Mrs. Ella B. Black, state president of the W. C. T. U., about the local beer quorum. W. C. T. U. eloquence against the demon rum is well typified in Mrs. Black's letter. However, Mrs. Black's love of Penn State, her touching death bed scenes, her picture of gin-gengendered lunacy and her hope for fine jobs for teetotalers, hardly is pertinent to the point that State College is voting on beer. It would seem as though W. C. T. U. headquarters had no literature on beer and the membership had to think up the local campaign out of their heads.

Voters must not allow appeals to sentiment or harrowing death bed scenes to obscure the fact that they are making a decision that involves the rights of half their population who are without votes. When the dregs confuse liquor and beer in their arguments, the wary voter must again make the proper distinction.

Mrs. Black's letter is a sorry commentary on the logical powers of the dry hordes. If their exalted ruler can achieve nothing better in the way of argument than of America's youth... We are preserving adolescents the precious non sequiturs, jumbled illiteracy and pathetic sentimental appeals of her letter, then the W. C. T. U. had better stick to the pulpit and the camp meeting rather than insinuate their fanatic interference with human rights into the political arena. Champions of narrow "moral standards," admit their failure when they attempt to railroad their own beliefs on the politically defenseless.

One of their standard tricks in this campaign has been the patronizing attitude that they are keeping the trust with parents of students. "We are the guardians from a life of sin"... Let Mrs. Armstrong answer that one for them in her letter on the front page.

The man on the middle ground in this question has had to lay low to escape the mud being flung over his head. The COLLEGIAN has attempted to show as far as possible the exact reasons, facts and consequences of both sides of this issue—feeling that such appeals to reason constitute the only admissible arguments in making the decision. If we have stooped to pick up some mud it has been because we were angered by the consistent refusal of the dregs to meet logic with logic and facts with facts.

OLD MANIA

Curt Note:

Fred Young, sophomore member of Tribunal, and, we believe, president of his class, received the following curt note, inscribed on the back of a government post card:

Say, Young, on Thur., Oct. 31, you were seen with a Freshman by the name of Cunningham and he wasn't wearing customs! If you can't enforce Customs, why don't you admit it and give up. The Tribunal has been Sued all year and you boys should get on the ball or admit that you are no good and that you don't have intestinal fortitude enough to do your job right.

From—4000 Upperclassmen who want Customs (such as they are) rigidly enforced.

Don't be a heel and tear this up, Young. Show it to the other members of the Lousy, ineffective Tribunal.

We can't be sure of this, but we rather imagine he tore it up.

Minor Campaign:

In many ways, the College has fallen short in its provisions for the use of the Carnegie records. Perhaps the most serious of its shortcomings has been the failure to provide batons for repressed embryo directors. We realize that the number of students who are potential leaders of dance bands is much higher (count them next Friday and Saturday) than the number of symphony directors. But the conditions in 417 Old Main are otherwise so ideal that some facilities should be provided for the discovery of hidden talent. We feel sure that the College will see eye to eye with us on this matter and remedy the woeful situation by providing a podium and guest batons.

Purple Quill

About Town and Campus:

Vance Packard, of the staff of this paper, is leading a miserable life these days, because of this paper's stand on the beer question, even though he has no part in the policy. He's just waiting for election, so he can live in peace and quiet again...

Frances Bedzek is quite a socialite at the U. of Chicago... The preview of the new Froth cover turned into a riot. We look for the same thing when it comes out... The five Birmingham gals who've been making the rounds on successive week-ends soon forgot. They've gone to Phi Delta, Beta, D. U., Phi Gam. Who's next... Guess the Alpha Sigma Phi's got stuck worst on the Ina Ray Hutton deal. They even had photographers there. Hutton, Hutton, who's got the Hutton?...

Will Sex Bring Prosperity to State College?

- 1. "The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks, which practically conceal its sex."—Ogden Nash.
2. "Oysters are a great aphrodisiac."—The American Credo, by G. J. Nathan.
3. "Sex is bad for minors."—The Maniac.
4. "Sex: character of being male or female."—Noah Webster.
5. "... the fair sex..."—A. Schopenhauer.

VOTE "NO" ON THE SEX QUESTION?

Adv. —THE MANIAC

"TUX or TAILS" For the season's formal occasions... STARK BROS. & HARPER HATTERS . HABERDASHERS . TAILORS

Letter Box

To the Editor:

The October 15 issue of the COLLEGIAN came to my desk yesterday. In your editorial, you speak of the "deplorable situation of the W. C. T. U." Probably you will be kind enough to give us space to affirm our principles. We are sincerely sorry that we could not have had this issue sooner, then we might have replied before November 5.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union fights liquor. The fact that it is sold legally does not change the fact that alcohol is a narcotic habit-forming poison. We do not want our people to buy from the bootlegger any more than we want them to buy from a State Liquor Store.

Recent events in New York and in New Jersey prove that the gangster is with us since repeal, just as he was during Prohibition days. Kidnapping and crime command front page news today, just as they did before repeal.

A paper that fought Prohibition constantly printed statements that anyone with an ounce of common sense knew were not true, in its issue of Oct. 30, states that "DRUNKEN DRIVING IS UP 75 PER CENT SINCE REPEAL," and gives the statistics from the Bureau of Statistics at Harrisburg as its authority.

I love Pennsylvania, I love old Nittany, and the sight of the tower of "Old Main," viewed from a distance always brings a thrill of joy to my heart.

With national and world conditions as they are today, we need young men and women of courage and strength to face the future. Penn State, with her unexcelled location, her well equipped buildings, her splendid faculty, should, and does each year, send out into active service just such men and women.

Why not, for the honor of Penn State, and for what it will mean to you personally, have the COLLEGIAN say, "We will fight to have all beer places put out of State College, and we will also see to it that the bootleggers take their departure, that the fraternity houses are dry?" In the years to come, your children would bless you for this action.

I see by the COLLEGIAN that most of your staff belongs to the class of '36. If you had more time, I would suggest that you use as a project the reason why the inmates in the following institutions are there—Norristown, Allentown, Danville, Warren, Muncy, Laurelton, Morgantown, Huntingdon, Dixon, Pottsville, Fairview. If you should determine the number in these institutions, there either directly or indirectly from the use of alcohol, you might be more kindly disposed towards an organization that teaches what alcohol is, and what it does.

A trained nurse said to me, "Mrs. Black, I wish these college young people who think they must take a drink of beer now and then could know what it means to see a person in a padded cell die of delirium tremens," and then she told some death bed scenes that I have never repeated to any one.

We really expect more of our splendid men and women in colleges than that they should give their time fighting that they may have beer. Within the past few years many have laid off their caps and gowns to look for places they have not found. We hope this may not be the case in the future, but of one thing we are certain, the physically fit, mentally alert, will win the prize positions—and hold them.

There is one more consideration of this problem—in all colleges there are, no doubt, many who have money to buy anything they want. There are also those who are there because of the sacrifice of parents or others at home. Many a mother wears stockings with runners mended that daughter may be well shod at school. Many a father wears a suit that is almost a mirror, that his splendid son may have what he considers the right ties and shirts at college. Sisters teaching exchange dresses and hats with sister at college, that she may appear presentable. Son may be so busy with his affairs that he may not even notice the shine on Dad's suit. These parents sacrifice thus gladly and willingly, but is it necessary, with these conditions, that these young people spend even any money for beer?

You say the COLLEGIAN is seeking temperance. We believe you are, so why not make a clean sweep of it and say, "We will have no beer joints, no bootleggers at beautiful Penn State." Massachusetts speaks of Northfield, the burial place of Dwight L. Moody, and the schools there that are his everlasting monument, as "Beautiful Northfield." It is not as beautiful as Penn State. All Hail Penn State! Ella B. Black, Pres., Pa. W. C. T. U.

To the Editor: The policy of the Penn State COLLEGIAN with respect to the beer question is well known to all. Any fair-minded person cannot help but respect the managing board for its clarity of statement as well as its courage to state openly the policy of the paper. Of course, there are students, and, persons interested in students, who, while admiring the clarity and courage of your policy, cannot agree with

Fraternity Jewelry

at the L. G. BALFOUR CO. OFFICE IN SAUERS' STORE Allen Street

CINEMANIA

"Personal Maid's Secret," which plays at the Cathaum tomorrow, was witnessed over the week-end by your reviewer, and he can recommend it as a diverting comedy-drama, pleasing and plausible. The story concerns the rise of a New York couple, played by Margaret Lindsay and Warren Hull, from social obscurity to leadership as a result of the suggestions made by their maid, played by Ruth Donnelly.

Anita Louise, as the maid's daughter, has the romantic lead with Frank Albertson, who plays the part of Miss Lindsay's brother. Miss Louise is beautiful enough to carry her role with minimum demands on acting ability, but in the scenes with Miss Donnelly, she does show a dramatic sense not expected. Miss Donnelly, in addition to managing the family's affairs, also finds time for a little romance with the butler, played by Arthur Treacher. The action is swift, there are no sobby tense tear-jerking episodes, the humor is deftly handled without throwing it in your face.

"Rendezvous," starring William Powell, was also taken in by the Cinemania, and this picture, playing at the Cathaum Thursday and Friday, has much of the same appeal of the "Thin Man," with an entirely new setting. Powell, as a government cryptographer during the World War, is supported by Rosalind Russell opposite him, and also by Binnie Barnes, Lionel Atwill, and Cesar Romero. Powell is a swashbuckler from way

the position taken. Because of this point of view that disagrees with yours, these folk watch with interest and concern what your paper is doing to promote and achieve its purpose.

In studying your procedure, some of those who look at the beer question from a different point of view than yours, would like to have some information about your position. We notice that many homes are receiving free copies of the COLLEGIAN. No scheme for increasing subscriptions has been announced. No unusual features have been added. The free distribution has come at the time when the beer question is paramount. We also remember hearing various rumors in the past that the COLLEGIAN business staff at times finds it difficult to finance the publishing of the paper. Now you are, if reports be correct, increasing your circulation quite a bit by the distribution of a number of free copies. In the light of these things will you kindly and as candidly as you have stated your position on the beer question inform us

(1) If the free distribution of the COLLEGIAN has any connection with the beer question.

(2) Who is financing this added expense? Are persons or companies interested in the sale of beer paying for these gratis copies?

(3) What specific and accurate steps have you taken to find out the wishes of the student body with respect to the beer question?

(4) What factual basis have you for your belief that more drinking would result if beer is not sold in State College?

(5) Will you cite college towns where beer is NOT sold that have critical problems due to drinking at establishments out of the town or city limits?

(6) Will you kindly publish the proportion of students in State College who are minors and therefore not lawfully eligible to purchase beer?

(7) If going out of town to drinking places is dangerous and undesirable, are you being consistent and working for the good of the student body by accepting advertisements of establishments that sell beer ten to twenty miles outside of the borough limits?

G: Cecil Weimer

back and indulges in much horse-play throughout this picture. Miss Russell is admirably cast as the society girl while Miss Barnes is an exotic spy. Romero, as another spy, also gets our sympathies — after he jumps out a winner. Among the funnier scenes are those in which Miss Barnes is searched for evidence of espionage, when Miss Russell gives up to a climax that has a literal punch to it.

Vacation Bound? Send Your BAGGAGE Home by RAILWAY EXPRESS. No need to burden yourself with the transportation of trunks, baggage and personal effects at vacation time... Send them all home by Railway Express.

After the Dance... MEET THE GANG at FLAT ROCK INN DANCING Open All Nite. We Serve Philipsburg, Old Shay, and DuBois Beer. On Route 322—Near Port Matilda.

Claron Floral Shop The Students' Florist Announces A stock of the most beautiful flowers money can buy PLUS A staff of competent college-trained designers COMBINED To make your Houseparty Corsage a thing of beauty AND A joy to the little Queen. Roses, all colors—Orchids, large and small Gardenias—the finest We invite you to visit our Designing Room and see how a real Corsage is made S. Allen Street Prompt Delivery Phone 795