

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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THE MANAGING BOARD

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Tuesday, March 3, 1936

DEFEATISM

The worst enemy of peace is not the "war-mongers," it is to be found in the attitude of the people. From birth man is conditioned to accept war as inevitable...

If it were possible to make a comprehensive survey of the entire student body on the question of War versus Peace the result would be overwhelmingly against war. No one wants war. Everybody realizes the enormity of the loss of human life, and property which war necessitates...

And yet when it comes to constructive action towards peace the response is pitifully small. Not more than one per cent of the student body actually believes that war can be prevented. With a defeatist philosophy like that, certainly war is inevitable and when it comes they will go willingly—nay, gladly—to their deaths. They will be heroes, martyrs, victims of themselves—fit sacrifices to the greedy avarice of the war makers!

And so, licked before they start, supposedly intelligent students sit in stolid inactivity and filly admit that war is an invention of the devil, but one about which they can do nothing. The great majority of these defeated persons just refuse to do anything. They don't even think about it, much less take part in any concerted action against war. With supreme indifference they merely push it away from their consciousness like May's term papers and turn to more pleasant things such as which chicken brain "co-ed" to take to Spring House Party.

A small minority of students, infused with this war-is-inevitable spirit, suddenly get to thinking about it and decide that for their own future safety and bodily comfort they better do something about it. So they take advanced R. O. T. C. Of course, not all advanced R. O. T. C. officers are motivated by the reason, for after all, one does draw a salary, it's an easy "3," and think of the pretty uniform! But many of them do. From the depths of defeatism they assume that who are they to beat the war monger's millions, and they hurry to get on the winning side. Incidentally, an officer from his position back of the front is not nearly so ready a target for an enemy bullet as the poor devil in the trenches.

And that is the position of peace in the world today. Before any appreciable progress can be made towards a sane and sensible solution of international difficulties through arbitration, ninety-nine and ninety-nine one hundredths per cent of the peoples of the world must somehow be shocked out of their inborn conviction that war is inevitable. Manifestly true is the oft-repeated statement that if everybody in the world refused to fight war would disappear from the face of the earth. How devilishly paradoxical is the situation in the world today when the basic and fundamental concept of life is the urge to self preservation and yet at the same time humanity is ready, at a minute's notice, to throw down its life for somebody else's benefit!

War is not inevitable! It never has been and it never will be. For centuries humanity existed—shackled, beaten, outraged, more beast of the field than human—just because it believed that kings were of divine origin, the outward manifestation of God. Where is that belief today? Right where the inevitability of war concept will be when enough of the people in the world wake up to reality and refuse to be made the dumb tools of greed and rapaciousness.

—E. T. S.

CURIOUS COMPARISONS DEPARTMENT

Two weeks ago the House of Representatives passed the biggest peace-time War Department appropriation bill in U. S. history. Total sum apportioned: \$545,000,000; or, \$5.45 was taken from every man, woman and child in this great land of liberty.

Last week, after the final checkup was made, it was revealed that the Peace Emphasis Week bond drive here had netted a total of \$500. On a basis of 5,000 townspeople and an equal number of students, this means that every person in the district contributed the gigantic sum of five cents.

In one and the same week the residents of State College, supposedly one of the most intellectual and enlightened centers of the State, abused themselves before the great God Mars and sacrificed unto him the fatted calf while, behind their backs, they tossed a crumb to the dove of Peace. Well is it spoken: "Let not the right hand know what the left is doing!"

—E. T. S.

OLD MANIA

Soup and Fish:

Some freshman went into Paul Mitten's the other day and asked Paul for a pair of tails that he could attach to a tux. Paul patiently explained that tails and tuxes were two different uniforms. The freshman bought tails and left.

Definition:

Howard Rowland defines sociology as "the polysyllabic elaboration of the obvious." We think so too.

Conversation:

Saturday afternoon we happened to turn our radio on down at the lower end of the dial and so broke in on Ginny Hilborn talking to her mother in Pittsburgh. A local amateur station, WSNAR, raised WSDJE in Pittsburgh, who knew Ginny and asked about her. After much talking back and forth, they got Ginny at this end and her parents at the other end and they had a fine conversation. It was all very chummy.

The local end, which was the only one we could hear, seemed to have a lot of trouble thinking of things to say. Ginny was probably scared of such dastardly eavesdroppers as ourself. Those of you who are interested may hear her again if you'll turn your radio down to the lowest end of the dial Friday afternoon at 3:30.

(Aside to WSNAR: You came through QSA5, R8. On two transmissions, the QRM from our land-lady's vacuum cleaner smothered you under. '73)

About Town and Campus:

The Kappas are going in strong for shoes with wide straps. We liked that prof's crack about "libraries that spend all their time counting up state and federal agricultural pamphlets and then calling them books".

What local business triumvirate overdrove their account at the bank \$1200 one day last week? Briggs Pruitt and Pete Lektrich found a five-dollar bill on the steps of Old Main the other day. Not being able to find the owner between Old Main and the corner, they broke it to buy beer. The Library got a request from a man in Erie asking why some equestrian statues have the horses posed with all four feet on the ground and others with only two or three feet. Mr. Lewis' gigantic organization is going quietly mad trying to find the answer.

We still like: Rich man, poor man, Fraternity brother, fraternity brother. Hugh Morrow, the Centre Daily Times star, has gone to Bucknell to become head of the news bureau there. Burgess-Leitell caught Centre County Sheriff Keeler for illegal parking the other day. The Sheriff decided to jail himself rather than pay the twelve-fifty fine.

Aside to M. G. S.: Merri. I'm wearing the shirt

George Donovan's bulletin board had Doc Dangler speaking on "What We Want Women to Do" at 4 A. M. for Mortar Board's leadership conference last week. Wayland Dunaway up from Philly for the week-end and escorting his sister May to the Theta formal. Marjorie Rehn was considerably worried about the letter from Paul Hirsch that she left in a Corner booth by mistake. We didn't read it, Marjorie.

Lynn Christy foiled a colossal gag planned by Highpockets Henderson (Bart Hodge's brother). Christy heard Harry struggling up the steps of their rooming house. He went out in the hall. Henderson was carrying his full trunk up the steps himself where he planned to put it in his bed, and then go down to Dugan's to sleep, thus creating a great mystery. He was sore as hell when Christy spoiled it all.

—THE MANIAC

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Cresswell Dismissed

Donald M. Cresswell, former head of the department of public information has been dismissed from the position of director of publicity for the state department of public instruction at Harrisburg, according to a recent announcement by Dr. Lester K. Ade, superintendent of public instruction. Cresswell resigned here in 1932 when he accepted the state position.

Letter Box

To the Editor:

As a forestry student in this college, I want to apologize for that person who signs himself "A Pledge."

There are nearly 400 students enrolled in this institution who are studying forestry. One student goes off "half shot" and makes a mistake. That is a lot less than twenty per cent, is it not? There are certain individuals in the School of Liberal Arts and Commerce and Finance, who at times, are just as "ruid," so please, do not take said "pledge's" outburst as an expression of general opinion of the foresters. We feel bad enough about it as it is.

Yours sincerely, A SENIOR

P. S.: I would appreciate it if you would publish this, simply in order that it might help alleviate any misunderstanding that might now exist between the foresters and the rest of the student body.

To the Editor:

According to the impression given, the author of the "Hell Week" letter in your last issue is a forester. A feeling of superiority towards foresters seems to be prevalent among the students. Undoubtedly the above misgiving will intensify this false attitude. As a forestry student, I wish to apologize for that letter, and hope that "A Pledge" will not be taken as a criterion for college opinion.

S. A. GORDON '38

To the Editor:

If a forester is the instigator of the recent letter to the COLLEGIAN may I apologize for all the foresters and for the forestry profession to those against whom the letter may be directed.

Forestry as a form of social service would hold little for an individual of the calibre that such a letter would indicate.

Surely, the thoughts of a moron of that type may be dismissed without further discussion.

A. O. PETZOLD '36

CINEMANIA

Big names don't always mean fine pictures. Extremely popular novels can't always be transformed into successful film productions. Yet in "Wife versus Secretary," playing at the Cathaum for the last time today, there is a welding of these two ingredients into a top-notch picture. It's plausible, swiftly-paced, and the

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Cinema gets ga-ga about Loy anyway.

A wise-cracking front-page reporter, who gets his tips from criminals, is the principal in Paramount's thriller, "Woman Trap," due Tuesday and Wednesday at the Nittany Theatre. He trails the gang only to find that he has saved, serves as a trap to put him in the power of the desperadoes who feel their lives will be safer once he is "wiped out."

Gertrude Michael portrays the girl whose nest for novel adventure plunges the reporter into peril. Important parts are entrusted to Roscoe Karns, Akim Tamiroff, Samuel S. Hinds, Sidney Blackmer and Dean Jagger.

A picture that promises to be one of the most stirring dramas of the year is "The Prisoner of Shark Island," which opens at the Cathaum tomorrow and jumps to the Nittany Thursday. Warner Baxter and Gloria Stuart have the leading roles as Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Mudd. Supporting actors include Claude Gillingwater, Arthur Byron, O. P. Heggie, and Harry Carey.

The picture is the more interesting because it is based on a bit of history little known to the average man; little known because it is one of the darker blots on the national escutcheon. Dr. Mudd became an unwitting accomplice of Booth, Lincoln's assassin, when he set Booth's leg.

For this act of mercy he was condemned to a living death on America's Devils Island, "Shark Island." Here Mudd suffered unspeakable cruelties with only the hope of escape to enable him to carry on. One attempt to escape failed and his "duration vile" became even more so. Finally an outbreak of plague swept the island and the prison doctor died.

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Dr. Mudd stepped into the breach in a succession of heroic deeds, so demonstrating his worth that he received his pardon and returned to society as an honored member. If at any point historical facts have been slighted, it has been in the interests of a better picture so those lapses ought to be condoned.

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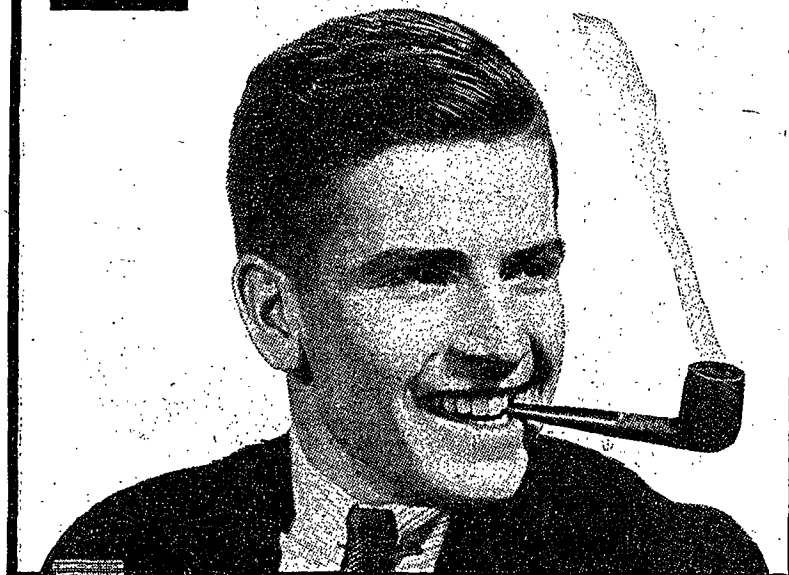
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