

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

Successor to The Free Lance, established 1887

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Tuesday, December 7, 1937

HOUSING CANVASS

WITH THE START of the new building program assured for the middle of February, College and town officers have launched a housing canvass to find out if State College and the vicinity can take care of the 1,500 workmen that are to work on the project.

This is the clearest and most encouraging indication that a problem staring the College and town in the face for some time is being met in an intelligent and common sense way.

It is time that all concerned with expansion know how well State College is equipped to cope with a social situation that will arise when the population is so extensively increased and the number of homes is not.

Because expansion will mean increased revenue for State College business, and eventually will mean greater educational facilities for more students, residents should give this census the fullest cooperation. It will be worthless if it is not accurate. If insufficient accommodations are available—a situation that is strongly suspected because of poor student living conditions—nearby C. C. C. camps are to be pressed into service.

But in this solution can be seen one main fault that borough officials have indicated they will not remedy. Concentration of the workmen in one camp has been declared undesirable, and has been the argument against the erection of special barracks. All precautions point to expected disorder. Yet the borough says that it is financially unable to employ more than one additional policeman to preserve order.

When the complaints and disorders rampant after next February, a condition that officials have given every indication they expect, taxpayers will realize that this refusal was a false economy.

The results of the housing survey, we fear, will give further reason for alarm. It is sensible to expect two distinct social groups to clash should inadequate housing and poor living conditions add to transient restlessness.

Adequate and intelligent police protection should be provided by students, faculty, and administration.

PERMANENT AID IS IMPERATIVE

TODAY the first 1937-38 NYA checks will be available. To the hundreds who will receive their checks the question undoubtedly has arisen: Just how long will this last?

What with the national administration curtailing relief expenditures it seems as though NYA is on the way out. If this proves true, thousands upon thousands of deserving students—hundreds here—will find themselves left with no means of working their way through school.

Whatever little NYA has provided it has unquestionably made available enough money to bridge the gap between what a student has and enough to pay for an education.

There is pending in Congress now a bill known as the National Youth Act, which in essence provides for a permanent NYA setup. But with so much "important" legislation with Congress to fight over, it seems very improbable that anything will be done about NYA.

Yet, with so many students dependent upon this means of support, the removal of this income might cause a minor national calamity. And, no matter what cynics may say, the future of this nation is very much dependent upon the education of the present younger generation.

A fight begun now might reach the proper men in time to push the National Youth Act or some similar bill through Congress before it is too late—so let's do something about it! A lackadaisical, don't-care attitude will get youth no place—a college student should be able to write a very convincing, intelligent letter—the most logical target would be your home senator or congressman.

In a recent speech, Mr. Aubrey Williams, executive director of NYA, stated: "Youth today as always seeks his place in the adult world. They want what all men want: homes, work, families, happiness. But youth, as with many adults, is bewildered. . . . It has gone through the most trying period in our nation's history. It has lived out its childhood and adolescence in the years of the depression"

"Youth today is discerning, critical, and analytical. There is much evidence that youth has accepted as its slogan, 'Youth must share as well as serve' Our program has helped, the CCC has helped, other federal and state programs have helped, but the problem has not been solved, the surface has been but scratched. The need is still far in excess of our combined efforts to meet the situation."—H.B.C.

PHI BETA KAPPA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE new chapter of Phi Beta Kappa that is being installed today.

Phi Beta Kappa here will mean increased recognition in the national education field for Penn State. It will foster scholarly attainment here.

Those who fought for recognition see the fruits of their labors ripening. Dean Charles Stoddart's comment, "puts us on the map," describes the situation.

The chance for recognition of scholarship by this honorary should be extended to as many branches of study as possible. The chance of becoming a member should not hinge rigidly upon the school in which the candidate is enrolled.

OLD MANIA

Hairbreadth Harry Comes Thru:

The snow always brings the fights. Sunday night, the du, sac, and ks boys were having a wonderful snow ball battle. Little damage was being done either way, with honors being all even.

This didn't seem to satisfy some of the du brothers. Shovels and other murderous weapons were brought into use. An axe frosh was beaten about the head and ears with a blunt instrument. Time came when a halt had to be called.

Using the same lengthy strides which carried him to many touchdowns on the gridiron this past football season, Hairbreadth Harry Harrison entered the fray and prevented a near riot. It was Harry to the rescue.

Vacation?:

Flunky Conrad '39 sent post cards to many of his State College friends, including several stewdents. The pictures showed campus buildings as local post cards do. They read:

"Spending a few days here. Having a fine time. Wish you were here."

All-America:

The principal topic of conversation these days concerns the all-American football selections. There's all-eastern, all-western, all-midwest, all-southwest, all-eastwest, and all-Gumpstump.

Two years ago, the Maniac picked an all-American team of Smiths. It was such a success the Associated Press picked it up and it was used throughout the country. This year, after glancing at the material on hand, the Maniac also selects an all-American team.

This group of stars is chosen from crm waitresses. The team has balance. It has deception. It has power and beef. It's strong in rushing and passing—the buck. Here it is:

- left end—Mabel
left tackle—Dorothy
left guard—Alice
center—Ruth
right guard—Peg S.
right tackle—Frances
right end—Helen
quarterback—Theresa
left halfback—Gertrude
right halfback—Pauline
fullback—Mary Lou

The ends are tall and should be valuable in pass-catching. The tackles are ideal. They're tall and slashing. The guards are the Economos type—short but very powerful. The center should be great in backing up the line. The quarterback will certainly mix 'em up. The halfbacks are swivel-hipped. The fullback should be able to plunge that line.

Back to Pitt:

Jack Bigham in celebrating the Pitt game trucked down Liberty avenue in woolen unmentionables . . . Jean Lyman tried to inveigle an Indian blanket from a once-was all-America at the game.

Success at Last:

According to one of the lecturers in the liberal arts course for women, this column has a demoralizing effect on women.

This Question Of ROTC

No Grudges

By JOHN A. TROANOVITCH

During the past few weeks the Collegian has published indisputable facts showing the inefficiency of the compulsory military training system as a whole.

Reactionary pro-R. O. T. C. advocates have been quick to distort the issue by claiming that the Collegian holds a grudge against the department of military science and tactics here.

That assumption is clearly without foundation. The Collegian holds no grudge against any member of the department of military science and tactics.

In this democratic nation, every man has the right to choose his own life career—provided, of course, that career is within the letter of the law. Because a man chooses a military career is no reason to condemn him.

The members of the military department have been assigned here by the War Department to do a job. They are doing that job.

Perhaps the job could be done better. That is a matter of opinion. But it must be admitted they are doing the job as well as can be expected under the existing setup.

The officers here are handicapped greatly by the fact that they must train unwilling students in military training, students who do not want to learn but are forced to do so.

As a natural result the efficiency of the department is lowered. Lowered, not because the officers are incapable of training men in military tactics, but because they themselves are being forced to train students who merely sling a gun over their shoulders and flop around for the entire period, waiting only for the command "dismissed."

As a consequence, not only is the

military department unable to produce at its maximum efficiency, but students who are really interested in R. O. T. C. and who should be given the best training are unable to get it—because disinterested students jam the whole works.

Army officers at the University of Wisconsin, at Pomona College, at the University of Washington—to cite a few—will tell you that optional R. O. T. C. has proved far more successful than compulsory R. O. T. C.

Authoritative sources have hinted that perhaps the military personnel here would much rather prefer optional training. Certainly there are very few other things that can gripe a person more than to be ignored. Certainly an army officer is harassed and irked by a person who just won't listen, just won't learn. Who wouldn't be?

Optional military training here would eliminate unwilling students from taking R. O. T. C.

It would give to those students the right of educational freedom. It would give to willing students access to a more efficient training in military tactics.

It would give the department of military science and tactics a break by providing them only with interested students who could be trained more efficiently and more easily.

It would give the War Department a more efficient and a more economical reserve officers' training system.

It would not deprive the College of any of the rights granted to it under the Morrill Act of 1862.

It would not deprive the College of the federal appropriations granted to it under the National Defense Act of 1920.

Letter Box

Mr. Herbert B. Cahán
Associate Editor
The Penn State Collegian
State College, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Cahán:
Mr. Williams has referred to me your letter of November 15 asking several questions concerning the National Youth Administration.

To the questions dealing with the future of the NYA I can give you only a tentative and unofficial answer. The future of our organization under the present set-up rests entirely in the hands of Congress. Funds have been appropriated under the 1937 Relief Act which will enable the NYA to continue on a reduced scale until June 1938. What will happen after that I frankly do not know. Much depends upon the public reaction to the NYA's program, which, as I have said, Congress reflects.

Efforts are of course being made by many youth groups such as the American Youth Congress and the National Student Federation, as well as certain other individuals and agencies interested in youth's welfare to establish some form of permanent aid to deserving and needy students. All the facts point to the necessity and justice of such a program. As a recent study shows, among the 6,500,000 young persons of college age from families with incomes below \$1,700, only one out of twenty-six has been able to attend college. At the same time, among the 3,000,000 young persons from families with incomes of \$1,700 and up, one out of every five has been able to receive a college education.

As to the effect upon the NYA of the curtailment in relief funds, you are apparently unaware that our appropriation for this year is only \$40,000,000 as compared with more than \$68,000,000 last year—this despite the fact that the 1937 Relief Act set aside a sum not to exceed \$75,000,000 to carry on the work of the NYA. The enclosed speech delivered by Mr. Williams at Harrisburg describes the effect of this cut in our 1937-38 program.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)
RICHARD R. BROWN
Deputy Executive Director

MEETINGS
Le Cercle Francais, 7:30 p. m. tomorrow, Beta Sigma Rho.
Senior commerce and finance students, 4 p. m. tomorrow, 25 S.E.A.
American Society of Civil Engineers, 7:30 p. m. today, 107 Main Engineering.
Phi Mu Epsilon, 4 p. m. Thursday, Chemistry Amphitheater.

PRINTING
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Advertisement for Freeman Fine Shoes. Includes image of shoes and text: 'FREEMAN Fine Shoes', 'THERE'S A LONG, LONG TRAIL a-winding', 'Miles and miles stretch out ahead of your Freemans. Month after month you'll find them easy-going and comfortable. They hold their shape till the day when you're ready for another pair of Freemans to replace them.', 'WORN WITH PRIDE BY MILLIONS', 'Every Fitting Proven by X-Ray', 'Bottorf Bros. Bootery', 'Allen & Beaver', 'State College'.

Advertisement for The Athletic Store, Inc. Includes list of SKIS (Jumping Skis \$17.50, Slalom Clear 15.50, Ridge Top Hickory 10.00, Flat Top Hickory 7.50, Pine \$3.50 and \$4.50), ACCESSORIES (Poles, Boots, Ski Tips, Press and Spreaders), SKIING EQUIPMENT (WAX, HARNES AND BINDING), and contact info: 'The Athletic Store, Inc.', 'On Co-op Corner', 'Dial 2158', 'Open Evenings'.

Advertisement for KEELER'S Christmas Cards. Includes text: 'Order Now Personal Christmas Cards 50 for \$1 up, with name', 'Christmas Gift Suggestions', 'EVERSHARP PENCILS', 'ZIPPER CASES', 'WALLETS', '5 YEAR DIARIES', 'PLAYING CARDS', 'KEELER'S Cathaum Theatre Building'.