

SUMMER COLLEGIAN

Published every Friday morning during the Summer Session by students of the Pennsylvania State College in the interests of the College, students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

The Summer Collegian has the official sanction and support of the Summer Session Office and its finances are controlled directly by the Student Union Office.

Editorial and Business Office
Student Union Desk, 101 Old Main, Dial 711
Subscription Price 30 cents for entire session
Copy deadline 7:00 Wednesday Night.

Co-Editors THOMAS A. BOAL SALVATORE S. SALA
Co-Business Managers F. A. C. VOSTERS, JR. JEROME SHAFER

Friday, July 8, 1938

WHERE'S THE MENACE?

As the Japanese struggle on with their year-old undeclared war on the supposedly hapless Chinese, the fears once held by foreign powers over Japan's military strength have taken a sudden decline as her troops continually lose prestige before the fire of an admittedly inferior army.

Before her attempted conquest of China, a legend floated about the other powers that Japan had built up a war machine and had trained expert militarists to steer it. The legend claimed that the machine was almost invincible. But one year in China has thoroughly exploded the theory.

After watching the Nipponese founder about on Chinese soil for one year, the European nations and America have discovered that the efficiency of the invading army was greatly overestimated. While the navy still remains an unknown quantity, there is reason to believe that it is no better than the land force.

Foreign military observers who have analyzed all battles and campaigns since the first clash on July 7, 1937, agree with a statement by one of their members, to wit:

"Assuming that American, British, French, and German armies are equivalent to mature 25-year-old men, the foreign observer said, 'China's army at its present stage of training and equipment is equivalent to a 10-year-old boy, while Japan's army, which is supposedly equivalent to a 21-year-old young man, has proved itself only equal to a 14-year-old boy.'"

The interesting feature of this analogy is that it was made as Japan is operating its military machine in its own back yard. At what age will the military observer put Japan's army if it has to function thousands of miles away from home?

The events of the past year in the Far East have certainly eliminated any danger of a Yellow invasion from the West. Japan spent years training her army to be the equal of those in Europe and America, and then sent them against an unorganized foe to see what it could do under fire.

What the army did was a disappointing shock to the Nipponese and a relief to the world.

As Japan prepares for a 10-year campaign in China, an attack on our western coast is improbable, impossible, out of the question.

Over in Europe, governments are afraid to turn their backs on their neighbors for fear of a stabbing. Armies are in readiness, near the frontiers, waiting for a nation in that smoldering pot can take a chance of crossing the Atlantic and picking a fight with us on our own soil.

But Congress, with the knowledge that Japan is bankrupting herself with the China campaign and that Europe is busy with her own affairs, gave the Army and Navy \$1,100,000,000 to spend because of "war warnings."

This, the largest appropriation ever given the Army and Navy in a year of peace, came at a time when America seems farthest removed from war clouds than in any period since the last Great War. But maybe we're asking for it.

TIME IS A DREAM

A play in six scenes, by H. R. Lenormand. Staged by the class in Stagecraft. Lighting by Joseph Dobbs. Directed by Daniel Larsen as the first in the summer series of four plays given in conjunction with the course in composite drama.

The Play

"Mr. Larsen does it again." Thus the consensus of opinion after a magnificent performance of "Time Is A Dream" in the Little Theatre Tuesday evening. This was the twenty-third in a series of plays that Mr. Larsen has been doing each summer with one week to cast, rehearse, and perform each play.

The play deals with a young man and an obsession—a conviction that time, yes, life itself, is a dream.

The young man was played to the ultimate by Charles Diehl. Mr. Larsen's unrelenting desire to do only the very best with the very best was evidenced by the appearance of Charlotte Lord opposite Mr. Diehl in the leading feminine role. Miss Lord was imported for the performance, to strengthen a cast left somewhat weak by a thorough screening of material for "The Merchant of Venice." Hers was a wonderfully convincing performance, but then, hers are always convincing performances.

Annette Evans did, as a whole, the best performance of the evening. Hers was a minor part, but a major performance.

Parmela Rose and J. Nicholson both rendered worthy portrayals in their respective roles.

The play as a whole evidenced directing that reached into the inner-most soul of the actor and drew out all that was good, fine, and fitting for splendid performances, and all in the short space of less than a week. The audience, we are sure, will agree with us in saying that this play has held up the reputation of past series. quote . . . The best thing that happens in the Summer Session . . . unquote

-WIL WASHCOE

Reader's Alley

When we read of the death of John V. Z. Weaver, a few weeks ago, we had the peculiar sensation of having lost a friend, although we never knew John personally.

We have been, however, acquainted with his verse since that day in 1921 (we were a freshman) when an enthusiastic young English instructor brought in a copy of *Vanity Fair* (now, alas, incorporated with *Vogue*) to read a page of Weaver's verse in "Americana." And ever since that day, we have found various pieces of Weaver's work, here and there, in F. P. A.'s column, in H. I. Phillip's pillar, *Poetry*, and a dozen other surprising places. Whenever we saw his name, we read the verse. We even picked up a copy of *Trial Balance*, one of his last volumes, at a book sale, the only copy we have run across on counters.

Now that his pen is still, our curiosity has mounted. We have found out a lot that would be the ground work for a master's thesis. (Johnny's output, though not large—five volumes of poetry, a couple of novels, a play or so, several scenarios—would be a neat little task to survey, but it isn't for a purist. The student of Weaver's work must be a little sentimental, very human, able to speak and think in "the language of the people"—that is, in Americana.)

From *Who's Who*, we found that John V. A. Weaver was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 17, 1893. He took his A. B. at Hamilton College, studied a year at Harvard, then went to the Book Editor's job on the *Chicago Daily News*. After a tour as a sergeant in the Ordnance Corps during the World War, he became Literary Editor of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, in 1920, a job he held until 1924. In that year, and on St. Valentine's Day, if you sentimentalists will subscribe, he married Peggy Wood, the actress, a Brooklyn girl who made her first stage appearance in *Naughty Marietta*, and who was something of an author in her own right. Almost annually from 1921, when *La American*, his first poems were printed, until 1932, Johnny found time to get a book into a publisher's hands. (Alfred Knopf, and Farrar and Rinehart were his sponsors.)

A glance into *The Book Review Digest* for the aforementioned period will convince you that Johnny had some glad and sad mornings. Reviewers such as Harriet Monroe, Henry Mencken (whose first book on *The American Language* had inspired Weaver to try to write in the colloquial speech of the people), Ring Lardner, John Chamberlain, William Rose Benet, all found much good in Weaver's poems. But "purist" reviewers pretended that they couldn't abide the lingo of the man-in-the-street, and dismissed the work as ephemeral.

We nosed around in various anthologies not very many of them included Johnny, but Harriet Monroe and Alice Henderson found space for a couple of Johnny's poems in *The New Poetry*, and Christopher Morley, in revising *Battlett's Quotations*, included two stanzas of "Legend."

William Rose Benet pays Weaver high tribute in the June 25th issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. Benet speaks of Weaver's sojourn to Hollywood, where he wrote for the Paramount-Famous-Phonies-Lasky groups, then indicted flimdom in *The Turning Point*, an ironic portrait of life around the sets.

Weaver died of tuberculosis, as did Ring Lardner. The two had much in common in their writings. "He (Weaver) moved," to quote Benet, "among us with that mock-baggage and deep inner sympathy with plain ordinary people that he always had. He was a 'breezy customer' and an honest man."

-R. E. G.

The Sideshow

You've truly took time out from his books over the Fourth to get back to the home town. Feeling lonely (the gang had departed for the mountains) I stalked into a speaker's trap who was asking contributions for a "most worthy charitable institution."

His facial and tone expression, his commanding personality and winning smile had me clutching my loose change. But as he kept on, the words of Mark Twain as he listened to a fund speech, came to me, and for the first time, I understood the humorist's feeling.

Said Twain: I was so impressed when the speaker had talked ten minutes that I decided to give every cent I had with me, after another ten minutes, I concluded to throw into the treasury all the silver I had about me. Ten minutes later, I decided not to give anything, and when finally the contribution plate was passed around I was so utterly exhausted by the arguments that I extracted \$2 for my own use.

I left without taking \$2, in fact, even before the plate was passed around.

HOTEL MARKLAND

Noted for Good Food and Service

Sail a straight course on the GREEN ROOM'S NEW SHIP BAR

Don't Quote Me..

When Norman Thomas, the Socialist leader came into town little did we think that he would give us an opinion on the Pennsylvania political situation but what he said indicated to the writer that he has kept up with the events.

He said that the Governor has played his cards wrong when he attempted to delay the hearing on the widespread graft charges, particularly if the charges can be proven false. Any attempt of this kind, he went on to say, at once affect the opinions of the people on the matter.

In the meanwhile, word from the Republican headquarters is that their campaign will be a short, intense affair beginning late in the fall. This plan of action which will keep politics in its own season will be appreciated by most of the people. Senator James J. Davis, running for re-election endeavored himself into the hearts of the fishermen when he suggested to his sunning mate, Arthur H. James that something should be done about the fishing license fee.

One of the better stories that we have heard about the Senator's concerns a mid-western toga-wearer. A

new doorkeeper at the Senate's family gallery had failed to recognize the Senator and barred his way to the door. "You don't belong here," the doorkeeper declared. "Sh!" said the Senator. "Lots of people back home feel that way, but how did you find out?"

Probability of an extra session of Congress which was forecast by my colleague in the last issue of the COLLEGIAN seems to be good dope as the latest word from the Capitol comes in. It will not be before the November elections, however, and the main purpose of such a session would be to get action on the Government reorganization bill.

A law which finally puts teeth into the administration of the sale of foods and rugs was passed by Congress just before its adjournment. Any article which is adulterated or fails on its label to state exactly what is contained in the food or drug are barred from commerce. The second act passed concerning the sale and advertisement of foods, drugs, or cosmetics bans false advertisements or statements, the Food and Drug Administration will decide what constitutes false advertisements.

Smart Dance Music by DON CROSLY and his Orchestra NOW AVAILABLE 1515 Sixth Avenue Telephone 2 8336 Altoona, Pa.

CATHAUM A Warner Brothers Theatre SUMMER SCHEDULE Evenings at 7:00 and 8:45 Matinee Saturday Only at 2:15 SATURDAY ONLY GEORGE O'BRIEN TEACHING THE OLD WEST NEW TRICKS IN TRAPPING GUN SMUGGLERS BORDER G-MAN featuring JOHNSON RAY WHITLEY

MONDAY and TUESDAY SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD Reaching for the moon and getting their fingers burned! GINGER ROGERS DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, JR. Having Wonderful Time

Special Added Attraction March of Time No. 11 The Truth About Your Doctor in "Men of Medicine—1938" The dramatic, exciting and authentic behind-the-scenes story of your doctor—his life, his work, his triumphs. What is the great controversy now raging among U. S. doctors? How will its outcome affect you?

WEDNESDAY ONLY Romance under Fire! Love versus Bullets and a million souls BLOCKADE MADELEINE CARROLL HENRY FONDA

Goodbye 'Til Monday Week-end days.. are here again.. and with them.... The 1938 PALM BEACH SUITS \$17.75 Paul A. Mitten 146 South Allen Street Diagonally across from Post Office

Be Careful in selecting YOUR CLEANER Call Balford INC. For Quality Work and Satisfactory Service Suits Pressed 35c Plain Dresses Dry Cleaned 75c Phone 3461 Under the Corner Delivery Service

the centre CORNER ALLEN AND BEAVER. It's time to Dine! YOUR MISSING A THRILL IF YOU DON'T DINE WITH US OUR SERVICE CAN'T BE BEAT COURTESY, EFFICIENCY, AND SPEED OPENING FRIDAY JULY 8th Complete Restaurant and Fountain Service