

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN
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Thursday, September 8, 1938

R. O. T. C.—WHY?

For two years—four full semesters—every student who enrolls at the College is forced to shoulder a gun and take military training—for three hours each week.

To students coming here it may be something new, but to the College it's an old story.

For since a dark day in July, 1862, when the nation was in the midst of a bitter Civil War and Congress enacted the Morrill Land-Grant Act, students at Penn State have been compelled to take that military training.

Of course, the Morrill Act says nothing about compulsion. Not a thing. If you don't believe it, read what it says:

"(Certain grants of land and land-cript are made by the Congress for the purpose of establishing in each state which would accept its provisions) at least one college where the leading objects shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

Including military tactics. "No compulsion there. No threat. No intimidation. Just a plain statement that military training be included in the College curricula."

The Collegian defies anyone to show how compulsion can be derived from the wording of the Morrill Act. The fact is no one can show how.

Yet, despite this factor, despite the fact that Wisconsin and Minnesota and North Dakota have awakened and by overwhelming legislative action have outlawed compulsory military training, despite the fact that figures from the War Department's own files prove optional military training is less costly, and more efficient than compulsory military training, students at 65 colleges in the United States, including Penn State, have continually been forced to take this training—or lose a college education.

On the record there has been no legislative action by either the state or the national legislature forcing this College to jam military training down the throats of thousands of students. But the College, long recognized as a liberal institution, continues to do so.

Why? Because the United States War Department is controlled by professional patriots, backed by glittering gold and jingoistic epithets, who are expertly adept at dealing from the bottom of the deck and playing an underhanded game, a game so underhanded and so viciously one-sided that any educational institution daring to challenge their power may soon find itself dying of financial starvation.

Worse yet, however, is the fact that these professional patriots have a strangle hold on the public of this nation.

Deny it if you will, but the Collegian defies anyone to show any organization in this nation with more power than the so-called patriotic organizations which jump at the drop of a gun to sing chauvinistic hymns of hate and preach the doctrine of brother against brother.

These are the organizations that are perpetuating compulsory training. And no sane educational institution in the world would dare challenge them—unless it knew the public was ready to shake off its lethargy and crush these organizations.

That's what happened in Minnesota—by legislative action.

That's what happened in Wisconsin—by legislative action.

That's what happened in North Dakota—by legislative action.

And that's what can happen in Pennsylvania, if people are brought face-to-face with the facts, if they can be made to see that compulsory military training is only a useless waste of time and money.

But it will come only by legislative action and only when the public is so well-acquainted with the true facts that its political power will be strong enough to out-barter the enemy.

For the past few years, the College has authorized exemptions from R. O. T. C. to be granted for (1) "physical disability" and (2) "religious reasons."

What is meant by "physical disability" is obvious, but what "religious reasons" means no one seems to know.

The Collegian hopes, however, that in this age of violent extremes and intolerance, incoming freshmen will retain common sense, show their respect to College authorities, then go out and fight the professional patriots—not with fists, not with guns, not with catchy phrases, but with gold, hard facts that can't be repelled.

CAMPUSEER

BY HIMSELF

Extra! Extra!

"Bob Higgins turns the students of Penn State down!"

"This is the year" anecdote missing from dope statement.

"Hopes of students for winning combine blasted by missing phrase."

In the place of "This is the year," Higgins promises a stronger team than last year's, but one that will not win as many games. Which doesn't seem to make the best possible sense but maybe there's something to it, especially when Connell's Snively says the same thing!

Advice Department:

Al Swift, the fellow in the center stall in the Public Information office, published an account of why the Student HandLook left out the definition of "handshaking, chiseling, and apple polishing" in its vernacular.

Says the report in effect: "Many students would rather leave problems and questions unanswered than go to the prof after class and be subject to a moniker preceded by one of the three terms above."

But out from the West, a Michigan professor by the name of Wite, came up with this suggestion: "If students insist on apple-polishing their profs, they should take time out to read Dale Carnegie's 'How To Win Friends and Influence People'."

Come to think of it, that is the best book on the subject of handshaking on the market. That is until one of our alumni get together and try then hand at writing what they did here.

Campy suggests the title: "How to Graduate on Honey."

A Hick Comes to a City:

Myra of the College Diner (free adv.) told us this one.

One of the 4-H boys attending a meeting at the College about a week ago, stalked into the diner. He tapped the fellow behind the register on the shoulder and whispered something.

"Sorry," the cashier whispered back, "but the kind we have flush."

Attention, Joe College:

Fools! Yes, Fools! Why are you proud? Insignificant beings! Look, you fools, look around you.

Why are you so loud? Ha! Ha! Ha! Mine speaks in time and space, Speaks, I tell you, yes, nature's tools, Bow low, mortal, low, and hide that face!

Pick-Ups:

Glancing through the Girl story section two weeks ago, we found a full-page photo that closely resembled our own Hermone Hunt or was it really she? While Dusty Rhoades, Bob Staff and Max Machmicks were admitted to the army, that bunch of our defenses continued to kick "overweight, Shimsbock" (spelled Szymczak) around like a football a few days at the summer camp and the army gave him his walking papers again. It was the second time in a year Shimmy was thrown out. We're waiting for him to finish law school, enter politics, and give the army big shots a taste of this kicking around. Bob Wilson, junior reporter for this paper, went all the way up to Elkland, home of Reita Sheen, senior reporter for this paper, and was greeted by a herd of cattle wandering down Main street. Jack Clarke making frequent trips to Pitt during Summer School to see Helen Anderson, his theta date. Before leaving Scranton for State the other day, Clarke stopped off at Lake Winola to kiss Kit Simms goodbye. burning the candle at both ends of the state, we say.

—Campy

Hello, Everybody!

We're happy to welcome back our old friends and to greet new ones, too.

We hope that you will find The Corner a convenient place in which to spend some of your leisure time.

It will be a pleasure to serve you once more.

The Corner unusual

LIST OF FRATERNITIES

(Continued From Page One)

- and East Fanmount
Sigma Alpha Epsilon (2171), Pugh and East Beaver
Sigma Chi (2281), East Campus
Sigma Nu (2381), East Campus
Sigma Phi Epsilon (821), Locust Lane and East Prospect
Sigma Phi Sigma (3131), Locust Lane and East Prospect
Sigma Pi (754), Thompson and East Foster
Sigma Tau Phi (2481), 211 East Nittany
Tau Kappa Epsilon (756), Garret and East Prospect
Theta Chi (2161), Allen and East Prospect
Theta Kappa Phi (2371), East Hamilton
Theta Nu Epsilon (3112), Thompson

Letter Box

Editor, Collegian:

I must congratulate the Collegian upon the finest and the best issue it has ever published during my years here.

It was so comprehensive and so entertainingly clear that I am sure all who read it found it to their liking.

Here's wishing the "new" Collegian puts out more like it. "ADMINISTRATIONITE"

Theta Xi (2561), Locust Lane and East Fanmount
Triangle (3251), 224 East Beaver

LOCAL

- Beaver House (851), Frazier
Sigma Phi Alpha (2571), 304 South Pugh
Tau Phi Delta (2911), 232 East Fairmount.
Tru Sigma Phi (2922), 218 East Nittany

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Webster—\$3.50

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