

SUMMER COLLEGIAN

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Friday, July 28, 1939

RESURRECTION

THE TRADITIONAL ADAGE that a graduate of an institution is through with his school as soon as he gets his diploma has today undergone a revolutionary reversal

For 80 years, Penn State's educational mill has streamed into the world graduates who, for the most part, were content to gaze upon their alma mater through misty eyes and recall what the campus looked like, the "good old times," and the rest of the impractical sentimentalism associated with institutions of higher learning.

For 80 years, alumni of Penn State have contented themselves with bitching about coaches and football teams, bitching about the "cow-college" stigma. Today, two aggressive graduates of the class of 1939 are initiating a Committee of 100, "to foster more active alumni participation in College affairs."

John A. Troanovitch '39, considered the most outstanding editor in the history of the Collegian, and Thomas A. Boal '39, ex-assistant managing editor of the Collegian, have undertaken a definite, and workable program of action

The Collegian views with pride and confidence the work of these two graduates in attempting to find Penn State "a place in the sun"

It is the duty of Penn State alumni all over the country, undergraduate students, and the College administration to support and aid, in any way possible, the movement to set up the Committee of 100 —E. R.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SOOTHSAYING SEASON From now until the political conventions next year, the foremost national pastime will be a guessing game. Such speculation as to who will be the respective presidential candidates seems so futile in this tremendously complex and restive world

Possibilities on both sides have been paraded time and again. Foremost of these is "Third Term" Roosevelt who maintains his Sphinx role while public opinion for a third term continues to crystallize

Chances are not remote that the candidates will both be dark horses. In any event and regardless of who the candidates may be, barring the present President, history appears destined to give this nation another relatively static period of adjustment

AMAZING COINCIDENCE is Burgess Litzell's postponement of the Meyers hearing, originally slated Saturday, until August 19—a time when the Collegian will not be published. Perhaps the Supreme Court will reverse its decision on the Giffin Ordinance if the Burgess holds off long enough

DARK CORNERS are not prevalent in the College Library. On the contrary, the main reading room has been the victim of the electric eye which fails to bring light into the central portion until more than sufficient darkness has accumulated.

As a mere convenience to readers, definite steps to remedy this annoying situation should be taken immediately

A TRUE NOTE of sincerity in advancing education has been struck by Dr. C. C. Ellis, president of Juniata College, who recently withdrew his school's undergraduate center from Altoona realizing the need for a more extensive program which could be offered by the Pennsylvania State College. A. W. E. Jr.

SUM STUFF

Dear Mom, (What, again?)

No, it isn't dough I need this time cause I was just home last weekend, remember?

Thought I would jot down a few of those informal, nonchalant, indifferent, and unconventional remarks of yours that I recall during our courses of conversation while home. Perhaps you will get as huge a guffaw when you see them in print as some of the boys did when they heard 'em

Seriously, Mom, I believe you missed you calling some of these mixed word gems that you release at priceless and worthy of publication as unique twists in the English language. Not only that, it sure helps to fill space

Now if I remember correctly you spoke of

- 1—Jim Farley as President Roosevelt's "second hand man"
2—Some woman "You know how she puts on the 'hot dog'"
3—The Hibernians (recent holders of a convention in Pittsburgh)—"What do they look like?"
4—Alpha Tau Omega as A20.
5—Phi Kappa Psi as Phi Kappa Phizz
6—Our business manager as Mr. Heck
7—Alpha Five Company, Corner Room, and Collegian softball teams as guys you wouldn't call on to smother a fire, juggle plates, or pound out a rag

That was pretty fair for a weekend's performance, but maybe you'll have a flock more "originals" for a return showing in the fall.

You loving Son

Idle Chatter

The gals at phi kappa sigma are nice too (anything for a friend) editor's note to ath hall, mac hall, women's bldg, grange, sigma nu, acacia, spe girls—there is still one more issue of the Summer Collegian

Lots of regular session beauties seen in town of late and we wonder why... delta gam's Jo Condron and Porge Owens, gamma phi's Betty Bogar, Eloise Rockwell, and Lou Bell, theta Peggy Jones, alpha's Mary Ann Rhodes and Syb Conant... looking after business interests... also seen lacrosse co-captain Big George Ritter, Bernie "Scoop" Newman, news ed of the winter rag, Charley Planagan, forth has-been, Art Elton, forth business department; Sam Rubin, forth co-editor, and hundreds of high school superintendents...

Try Again, Mr. Craig

Among the unanticipated department is the notation that when Mr. Craig (Paul Hettis) supposedly smashed the delicate relic from the mantelpiece into a thousand pieces in act two, Craig's Wife, he failed to break it at all... the projectile neatly ricocheted off to the side of the stage... another was broken between acts so the maid could retrieve the broken bits...

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Readers Alley

When a reviewer is faced with the task of presenting the case for Thomas Wolfe, he is very apt to be so infused with the Wolfian style that, unless he lets the volume cool a while, he will find himself flooding the page with line upon line of figures of speech, description without stint, spurts of increasingly devastating adjectives, multiplicative verbs, roaring adverbs, salty phrases, clauses of memorabilia, and sky-rocketing sentences—the like of which we have just produced for proof

It isn't cricket to suggest that length and turgidity are the elements of Wolfe's prose—far from it. He could write as crisp a line as Hemingway anytime he chose. But readers will find that his prose does "rub off" on lesser intellects, and when smaller-statured scribblers sail over the multitudinous seas (yes, we know that "incardinated" is in the same poem) of his rhetoric, they are apt to get swamped

Now that we have that out of our system, we can give you a little idea of the scope and worth of Wolfe's posthumous and penultimate volume, The Web and the Rock. Despite the author's assertion that this is his most objective book, we feel that George Webber is merely an alias for Eugene Gant, and that the structure of the latest book is built over the framework of Look Homeward, Angel, and is a sequel to Of Time and the River. If the first half of The Web and the Rock does follow Wolfe's earlier novel, we must say he had a lot of thoughts, experiences, and activities that are equal, in fact, superior to those events of which he first wrote. His memory is sharper and more poignant in The Web and the Rock. The episodes are more stirring, more startling, more vividly portrayed

Like Eugene, George is a product of a small southern village, a boy who dreams, and plans, and figures, a boy who wonders, muses, and guesses. Like Eugene, he goes to college, this time to "Pine Rock." Wolfe finds more striking characters in this scope of his net, among them is Jim Randolph. And if Wolfe is being objective in portraying this all-too-equal personality, it is probably that Jim is the ideal of Wolfe's youth—the Man he wanted to be. Jim is handsome, George Webber is homely. Jim is a football hero, George is a hanger-on. Women flock to Jim, they let George alone. Randolph is a mixer, reporter, leader, George is shy, a struggling writer, English Composition instructor, a follower. But about the time that Wolfe began to taste success, to find "his woman," as George, he says farewell to Randolph, who becomes a foreign correspondent, and the last George hears of him is that Jim has died in some continental city. Yes, we feel that Jim symbolizes the sort of person every young man hopes to become

As long as we are on symbolism, we might say a word or two about the inference of the title. The Web is representative of experience in youth, and the Rock is suggestive of the island of Manhattan, where the character is finally "set." (Yes, we know that George Stevens, in reviewing the volume for the SRL, suggests that the Rock is the search for a father, but we see very little hinting of the sort.)

With the breakup of his group, George went abroad, and returning, met the woman who dominates the last half of the novel. Mrs. Esther Jack becomes George's mistress, but because she is wealthy, talented as a playwright, and of Jewish blood, her influence floods and ebbs throughout those troubled years—that see the publication of George's first novel. He needs her but hates himself for doing so. Unable to match her moods of despair and laughter, George becomes jealous, childish, boorish. For the last quarter of the book, these petulant lovers quarrel and make up, only to squabble again. The section, however, is lightened by a dissertation of several pages on George's "squeal," a peculiar and personal cry that he had since his childhood. Wolfe likens this primordial bleat to "The Goat Song," and numerous other shrieks given by both savage and civilized people. The end of this frenzied romance is forestalled at the time George loses his ability to rise to his squeal in the anger he bears Esther. With the inevitable separation, George flees his paradoxical passions by going abroad, ending his trip in a hospital after being knocked out in a brawl at the "Oktoberfest"

In The Web and the Rock, Wolfe has portrayed a love affair for the first time. Only because he is able to record every shade of thought, of feeling, of passion, does he succeed in handling it well. The surge and flow of desire, the exaltation and the despair, the delicacy and the brutishness are all present, but somehow the affair doesn't seem worth the effort, or perhaps we have never observed a liaison so fraught with intensity, so tinged with tawdry bitterness and selfishness. But, whether you like it or not, it is there, and it is Wolfe, and we think you ought to read it

Barnes Condemns England, Scores War In Talk Here

By CARL K. BOMBERGER

"I believe public job number one is keeping America out of a second World War"

"It is better for our youngsters to die in the WPA than to feed sharks in the Pacific Ocean to defend the British empire"

"The inevitable result of America's entrance into a second World War would be a dictatorship which would wipe out over night the last vestiges of democracy here"

"America gained absolutely nothing by her entrance in the last World War but a depression, and 'Uncle Sam' became 'Uncle Shylock'—the most expensive re-christening in history, at the cost of fifty billions. Not one ideal was realized"

With such utterances last Tuesday evening, Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, noted historian-lecturer, shattered many preconceptions when he spoke before the Superintendents and Principals Conference in Schuylkill Auditorium

Roosevelt's domestic policy is good, but he and his confidantes are succumbing to the propaganda of the two leading "bogus democracies," Britain and France, Dr. Barnes asserted

"Britain hasn't even changed the label on the same old bunk she is trying to sell us," the speaker explained. "Britain and France are perfectly capable of defeating the Fascist powers, but since America paid the bill before, we are again being invited to pull their chestnuts out of the fire"

Dr. Barnes, who has taught in 10 colleges and universities, has authored more than 30 books in the field of the social sciences, and is a writer for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, cited further instances of "British propaganda," listing among them the "extremely anglophile" motion pictures such as

Entrance Exams Administered In 22 Cities Today

1,000 Accepted As 1,405 Quota Is Set

An entrance examination to be held in 22 cities throughout the state today will determine the male students to be selected from the lower three-fifths of high school graduating classes to complete the 1,405 quota for next year's freshmen class, according to Registrar William S. Hoffman. More than 1,000 students already have been granted admission to the Class of 1943 with the maximum for women and out-of-state students now reached. Dr. Moore Designs Exam. Approximately 200 of the students ranking highest in the examination will be accepted, Hoffman stated. The test is a new objective type, designed by Dr. Bruce V. Moore, professor of psychology at the College. Additional admission will be granted to high ranking men in the event that other acceptances are withdrawn, the Registrar pointed out

Alumni Organize

(Continued From Page One)

broad education, not one reflected by grades alone—the Committee itself will endeavor each year to place a select group of graduates honored for "their unselfish efforts to better the welfare of Penn State"

Because the Committee will be composed wholly of alumni, the selection of the Honor Group will be left annually to the Penn State Collegian

Tentative Platform. Besides this, the tentative platform of action lists:

- 1—Cultivation of better public relations
2—Improvement of intra-school relations, including faculty, students, administration, and alumni
3—Elevation of academic standards
4—Establishment of a faculty "merit system"
5—Dissolution of "unhealthy inter-school friction"
6—Announcement of and strict adherence to a definite athletic policy "to eliminate suspicion and distrust generated by the present ignorance of the public, faculty, undergraduates and alumni."

"The achievement of the underlying purposes of this organization," a statement by Troanovitch and Boal said, "will undoubtedly lead to the evolution of a new Penn State loyalty, a loyalty that goes deeper than the 'ah-ah' stage, a loyalty that chastens as well as applauds, a loyalty which does not manifest itself only on football week-ends and die on graduation day"

Troanovitch, considered the most outstanding editor in the history of the Penn State Collegian, undergraduate newspaper, was active in pushing honoraries on the campus, instrumental in bringing about a centralized governmental setup, and conducted campaigns for a mid-year vacation, higher faculty salaries and standards and strived to gain student representation on the College senate

Boal, a graduate in commerce and finance, was assistant managing editor of the Penn State Collegian

Poisonous Mushrooms—How To Identify Them

All household rules regarding edible mushrooms have exceptions, says Dr. L. O. Overholts, of the College agricultural experiment station, but if all of the common rules were followed in gathering mushrooms for food, most of the dangerous varieties would be eliminated

Of about 1,000 types of mushrooms in Pennsylvania, only about 20 are poisonous or in other words "toadstools." The only way to be sure of identifying the edible kinds is to obtain instruction in recognizing a particular kind or kinds in their environment and at the season of the year when they are common. It is not only foolish but dangerous to believe that varieties which grow in the woods have been found out in the open, or spring varieties in the fall

They are very closely related, but the toadstool produce poisonous products in growth. Toadstools may be handled; in fact they may be tasted without harmful results, provided the taste is not too large. Antidotes are available for the poisons which some toadstools contain, but the difficulty which most physicians encounter is in identifying the particular kind which has been eaten. The poisons of some act slowly, a condition which further complicates diagnosis and treatment.

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