

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

Successor to The Free Lance, established 1887

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Friday, January 26, 1940

A CRITICISM THAT HURTS

"EDUCATION especially higher education, is too dogmatic, too standardized today."

Such was the essence of the most stinging indictment against our educational system handed down by John Erskine, noted American educator, in a recent gathering at the University of Texas.

And John Erskine is right. And he is right again when he admits that youth is right for resenting it.

Such criticism of American colleges and universities hurts because it is true and because it is the fundamental wrong in our system. Unless this is righted, it is useless to point out to the many other faults of the system.

Regardless of what anyone might say about the day of "rugged individualism" being past, a democratic society must of necessity be founded upon some type of individualism. Individual initiative is practically synonymous with democracy.

Much has been said about the responsibility of colleges and universities to train citizens and leaders for a democracy. This means, that colleges must train their students for individualism—with allowances, of course, for the restraints on individualism that must accompany any society that is something more than organized anarchy.

THE QUESTION in the minds of many people is "How are we to train individuals instead of masses when we have 90 percent of our courses so standardized that there is no room for individual initiative in the part of the student?"

The Pennsylvania State College, like any other institution of higher education, is guilty of this standardization.

In the majority of freshmen and sophomore courses, and in many advanced course the student is presented with a stereotyped pattern of thought which occurred to somebody 50 years ago—a thought which has not been changed to this day.

Frankly, it is a process whereby the notes are transferred from the professor's notebooks to those of the students without passing through the head of either.

WHEN AMERICAN colleges and universities begin to let the student experiment in using his own mind, when they let him strike out on an intellectual path of his own, then, leaders and citizens will be developed to make a democratic society tick.

True enough, many obstacle stand in the way of this desire. The entire theory of present-day education must be reoriented. Teachers must be trained to the new way.

CAMPUSEER

BY HIMSELF
Campy, pausing in his gossip dispensation To give due consideration and congratulation To the noble class of '39 1/2, Dedicates this column in their behalf.

From L. M. Ackerman to L. R. Zulick. To see them go just makes us sick. Instead, Bacal, Auld, and Beale... We realize our loss is real.

There's Walter Allen, of Blue Band fame, And sayman Bill Beuck, more of the same, Then there's baseball captain Raymond Brake... Foley Forester... It's hard to take!

For Mrs. Anderson, nee Bea Mary Quinn, We predict two boys and a complete set of twin.

We'll miss "Skippy" Jennings, the theta doll, We'll miss Bud Yanofsky... We'll miss them all!

Acc lacrosse! Ralph DeFalco... Korn, Klimatas, Starer and Yenchko... Ex-cheer leader Harold Bowe... We really hate to see them go

Deltagamma Poige Owen (Mouat Board) Rutman and Zern of the ASU horde Les Schultz, prey of old kiff, And Irv Supow, bigwig in tiepslonpi

Saul Richman, Porfolio's tycoon, Who shouldn't be leaving until next June... Bill Fanale and Anne R. Free, And that lovely French miss, Mireille Paquet

Alphazeta's Floyd Mans... Ag hill loses and the wide world gains. Little Sol Davidson, betasmarho, Goodley, Marian and Procopie, Joe

Bernsteins two and Millers four Mintmeier, Moats and many more Campy hates to see them go away. But he'll be with them soon... on PWA

CAMPY'S NOTE: If you don't like the above "poetry" put yourself in Campy's place... After writing anti-Maniac propoganda for a whole semester, we've been informed that we're to take over the Old Mania Column next week

Uncle Kampy's Kiddies Korner! And now kiddies, as a reward to the two of you who have waded through a halfcolumn of mental wanderings of a person facing sudden death in the person of finals, Uncle Campuseer will pass on to you a few tips as to the ins and outs of finalizing

1. Don't worry about finals. No professor uses them in computing your grades. They just use them as a basis on which to plan next year's course

2. Take along all the crib sheets and textbooks you want to. When the prof says he's using the Penn State Honor System he only means that you sit three seats apart in alternate rows, so there is plenty of room for the armed G-men to snoop around

3. If the prof says the final is to be on classroom notes, don't worry. You aren't the only one who didn't take any notes

4. If you get essay questions, include plenty of wisecracks in your answers. They help fill up space and profs love them. If they're good enough you may hear the prof use them when you repeat the course.

5. Special advice to freshman coeds: If you think finals are hell, just wait until sorority rushing really gets going!

6. If you have one of John Ferguson's "specials" and what Sam Wyand calls a "gem of the ocean" both in the same day, just forget about them and go to the movies. That's what Uncle Campy is going to do as soon as he writes enough stuff to fill a column

Follow Uncle's advice carefully, kiddies, and you too may be eligible for the Alumni Association before you get a diploma!

—CAMPY.

Two Popular Corner Sundaes Peanut Butter Scotch... Nut Ball Fudge Sauce... The Corner

CAMPUS BULLETIN

NOTICES of meetings to be published in this column may be left at Student Union Office in Old Man up to 1 p.m. on the day preceding publication.

TODAY Every member of Phi Eta Sigma, freshmen men's honorary, should call at Student Union immediately for his copy of the latest "Forum of Phi Eta Sigma"

Reservations may be made for the Drydock Club at Student Union Club will be open tomorrow night Dancing from 9-12.

THE DEANS... Dr. C. W. Stoddart

By HELEN V. ATKINSON '40 Introducing Dr. Charles W. Stoddart, dean of the School of the Liberal Arts

"Brevity," says the dean, "is a great thing No souls are ever saved after the first 20 minutes" He has another pet saying, "A sense of humor is a saving grace in anyone It is vital for the enjoyment of life"

His pet desire is to write a book, "Albion I Have Met" Only once every four years does he meet a new one, he maintains, and his advice to freshmen is that they tell the truth even though it is stranger than fiction.

Already he is the author of a



book, "The Chemistry of Agriculture," but his secret ambition is to write a best seller.

He believes in giving pupils a square deal and says they should be able to follow any serious interests they may have, because he feels they will find happiness and success only in work that is congenial

His hobby is the collection of ancient coiniform tablets He boasts specimens dating from the Babylonian of 2350 B.C., the time of Hammurabi in 2000 B.C., and the period of Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C His modern interest is camping

Discoveries Made Here Cited As Significant By 'Science' Magazine

New discoveries in the field of hydrogen fluoride research, made here were cited as one of the four most significant advances in the field of chemistry during 1939 recently by "Science" magazine

The discoveries, announced last September by Dr. Joseph H. Simons, professor of physical chemistry, were summarized by the magazine, which is the official publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as follows

"Hydrogen fluoride was discovered to be an excellent catalyst for many vital organic chemical reactions, improving the yield of many reactions and making possible some which have not previously been attained."

Sixty per cent of Columbia University's graduates continue their studies in the university's advanced schools

Romig Announces WSGA And Govt. Convention Tie-Up

Nine Women Chosen For 5 Committees; Delegates Invited To 'Leap' Dance

"WSGA is very much in favor of the student government convention scheduled for March 1, 2, and 3, and will cooperate in every way possible with the all-College student government in order to make it a success," declared Jane A Romig '40, president, last night

Nine women have already been appointed to convention committees as follows: orientation committee, Juanita M Chambers '40, chairman, and Sarabell Shirm '40; registration and finance, L Eleanor Benfie '41 and Janet A Reese '40; entertainment, Miss Romig, chairman, and Eloise F Rockwell '40; invitations, Mary H. O'Connor '40, chairman, publicity, Helen L Camp '40 and M. Elizabeth Baker '41; Other women will act as hostesses

Convention delegates will be invited to the annual WSGA formal dance which climaxes "Leap Week" on Friday, March 1

WSGA will also have charge of a dinner during the convention. Room arrangements for visiting women will be made by Panhellenic council

PET PEEVES

Ever since I have been at Governor James' school for boys and girls, I have heard about the burning desire on the part of most of the students for "discussion" rather than "lecture" classes. This, it seems to me, is very laudable and shows a keen interest in the subjects that the students may at the time be studying

A mind that is unwilling to sit quietly and take the dictum of even the most learned of professors without question is the sort of mind that helps to increase the exactness of knowledge of a subject The person, who, when he fails to agree with the speaker, insists upon being shown is a person that any school may well cultivate

The universality of the plea for smaller classes and more discussion aroused in me a feeling that the students have a definite understanding of how to get an education—at least how to get the solid foundation upon which to build one

With great glee and the anticipation of classes that would sparkle with wit and wisdom, classes in which no one would desire to make up for lost sleep because of the greatest of all pleasures, mental exercise, I have attempted such discussion

What has been the result? The moment a student steps his foot inside the door of a classroom he becomes a "student" He is no longer an inquiring human being, associating with other human beings for the purpose of mental development In a bull session he would take his hair down and argue half the night but in class he becomes a second cousin to an oyster

Once in a while the male of the species will break over and venture a question or a comment but the female, never

What I want to know is: just how is one to hold discussion classes if there is but one person entering the discussion? Who wants discussion classes in which they intend to take no part? How in the devil is the student going to be able to continue to think if he does it so seldom?

Is a class supposed to be composed of a professor and a number of empty skulls into which the professor is expected to pour facts, funneled through a notebook? If not, who can change it, the professor or the student?

Upperclass, '43 Women Dating Hours Same For Finals And Mid-Semester

WSGA Senate announced that hours would be the same for upperclass and freshmen women during final week and between semesters, except for this weekend, and that freshman dating restrictions would be cancelled until second semester.

Hours announced are: tonight and tomorrow night, upperclass women, 1 o'clock; and freshmen, one 1 o'clock and one 11 o'clock, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 11 o'clock; and next Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, 1 o'clock. Eloquent o'clock permissions were granted for Monday and Tuesday night, February 5 and 6.

US GALS

Wireless To The Collegian SOMEWHERE IN STATE COLLEGE, Jan 26—Behind the lines in the most decisive battle of the semester, unofficial sources revealed tonight that students are favored to win their fight with semi-annual tests. However, no official report was made public

No blackouts were in evidence in women's dormitories but all along the front line trenches signs warned, "Do Not Disturb," "Studying, Please Keep Out," and "Busy. This Means You"

State College's once gay night life was at a standstill as the intense emotional crisis of the battle gripped the heart of the community. Theaters, restaurants, lounges—all were deserted. Relief from the extreme cold in the Atherton region intensified the fighting in this particular area and marked a critical phase of the mid-winter war

Pressure Weakens Forces Women everywhere were reported fighting desperately to offset reverses suffered earlier this semester. Steadily increased pressure from professors' weakened many of the forces, and reinforcements were not readily available

Casualties from the first few stages of the battle were not severe, but the worst was still to come. Coffee rations were given out nightly in dormitory lounges to combatants

The nerve-racking quiet between attacks from the enemy lines was almost unbearable tonight, as those not actively engaged in tomorrow's battles occupied themselves with giving unofficial aid to active belligerents

Dean Pleads Neutrality Last-minute diplomatic tactics were being practiced on all sides—with many student-faculty parleys about the grade situation. An official communique from instructors declared that they would resist any attack of apple-polishing, and the Dean of Women's office made a final plea for all students to respect its neutrality

Arms and ammunition were still piling in late tonight—and the noise of pencil sharpeners was heard on all fronts. Final raids on the armory of old bluebooks in respective sorority houses met with only fair success

Fully a week of open fighting is expected until next week. Unless this attack can be repulsed, the student population is in great danger, since severe casualties have already been suffered by many. In the meantime, all are meeting the crisis bravely.

Women in Sports

Coeds Ask your S-P to the WRA Valentine Dance scheduled for White Hall from 9 to 12 p m February 10 with Rex Rockwell's band. Student Union and girls on campus will sell you tickets for \$1

All women have been skating since the recent WRA Skating Party, with the major classes becoming potential Snows Hemes under Miss Lucey's guidance

Intramural competition begins February 19, Marge Harwick '41, intramural manager, has announced

Basketball season, closed with a championship stalemate at 24-24 between the Sophomore and Junior majors Evelyn Willey '42 was high scorer with 15 points, while Betty Succop '41 sank seven goals.

STUDENT SOAPBOX

DO YOU BELIEVE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED MORE ELECTIVE SUBJECTS?

Theodore A. Lesko '40, Chemistry: "Yes. Often a student needs different courses in unrelated subjects in applying for a specific job. I have known this to be the case."

Virginia F. Reilly '43, Architectural Engineering: "No. However, they might give us a larger selection of electives for the few we are allowed in our course"

Robert E. Maesser '42, Commerce and Finance: "Yes. We need more electives and less superfluous subjects that do not pertain to the course"

Lawrence S. Driever '41, Commerce and Finance: "Yes, definitely. When a student goes to college he knows what he wants"

Beatrice R. Mensch '42, Home Economics: "Yes. In the Home Ec School most of our subjects are compulsory and we don't get a chance to take other courses that we feel we should have."

Jack B. Anstine '43, Agricultural Biochemistry: "Yes. There are many courses I would like to take that I know will do me good after I graduate"

Alice C. Noll '40, Liberal Arts: "Yes. At least for students in the technical schools. I think they need a broader education."

Christian Education Head Will Speak Here Sunday

Dr Paul C Payne, new General Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, is here on an official visit to the local Westminster Foundation and will be guest speaker at the State College Presbyterian Church at 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

Formerly the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, N. Y., Dr. Payne is now head of Presbyterian Christian Education and overseer of 53 Presbyterian colleges and 52 Westminster Foundations through the United States.

Graduates

(Continued from page 1)

Carolyn Waldo Law, Helen Jeanne Purinton, Phillip W. Rivers, Winthrop Charles Skoglund, Richard Wolcott Stow, Warren Stubblebine, Bruce Robert Tegge, Ralph S. Thorpe, Alan George Castle White, Robert Thomas Wolf

Industrial Engineer Fred Emanuel Wagner Candidates for baccalaureate degrees are

School of Liberal Arts Curriculum in Arts and Letters. Lenore Marilyn Ackerman, George Bernstein, Daniel Lionel Beale, Harold William Bowe, Henry Paul Cowen, John Joseph Dailey, Jr., Sol Alfred Davidson, Florence Davis, Ralph Blase DeFalco, Sylvia Margaret Etter, Daniel Owen Forbes, Phillip Murray Gatens, Eleanor Harriet Heffner, William Jenks Hopwood, Raymond Hall Hunter, William Neil Karback, Harvey Levyn, Elmer Franklin Lumberg, Fred Tobias Luningar, Irma Mae Moats, Saul Richman, George Phillip Saker, Lester Kirk Schultz, Alan John Sommersville, Irwin R. Supow, Caroline Louise Swope, Robert Hamilton Thompson, John Fouche Roy Barker Gardner, Clifford Lewis Johanson, Dean Franklin Miller, Willis Rogers Newsins, Edwin Allen Pearlman, Joseph Frank Procopio, Henry Wilson Schweitzer, Morton Charles Sevel, Frank Charles Vlossak, J. Kenneth Eugene Weaver, and Herbert Sidney Yanofsky Curriculum in Journalism: Barbara Ann Joseph, Marjorie Frances Shapiro, and Betty Catherine Wagner

School of Education Curriculum in Education: Helen Brady Aaron, Walter Franklin Allen, Martha Cooper Anderson, Paul Latmer Beale, Dorothy Campbell Bly, Veronica Maria Bradley, Mary Whitby Britton, Ethel Allene Brown, James Harrison Haight, Virginia Claire Kennard, Florence Dorothy Kozelsky, Esther Almida Laving, Walter Edward Organist, Mireille Paquet, Mary Gertrude Rump, Nelle Hubbrand Wing, Mary Constance Woika, Curriculum in Home Economics: Anne Restofski Free, Emma Simon Jennings, Alberta Margaret Klimatas, Mary Catherine McCormick, Georgia Willard Owen, Beatrice Mary Quinn, Curriculum in Nature Education: William Taylor Hesler, Charles Edward Scherneck, Spencer Cutting Smith, Curriculum in Psychology: George Heffner Kirk

Continued On Page 4

Co-Edits

Panhellenic Council and City Panhellenic Council will sponsor a benefit bridge after formal sorority rushing, the proceeds to go to Mrs Hetzel's committee

Mrs C D Jeffries will serve as chairman of the bridge committee assisted by Mrs E C Davis, Miss Geraldine Mobus, Mrs J F Benham, Mrs V S Peterson, Marguerite R Scheffer '40, Martha V Shafferman '40, and Beatrice J McKechnie '41

Charities, local sorority, mutual-ed Doris A Anders '42 and Florence L Dailey '42 and pledged Jane E Knowles '41 on Tuesday night

Philes imitated Bernice Bane '41, Lucille Gates '41, Barbara Chapman '41, Anne D Greshko '41, Rosemary E Harris '41, Ellanora Linton '41, Miriam F Miller '41, Marjorie R Sellers '42, and Claire O Sieber

Miss Florence E Handy and Miss Elsie H Fletcher, instructors in Fine Arts, plan to visit art shows and exhibits in New York City during the mid-semester vacation

Dean Steidle Will Speak

Dean Edward Steidle, head of the Mineral Industries school, will speak at the Indiana Mining Institute in Indiana Saturday afternoon. Dean Steidle's topic will be "The Philosophy of Adult Education"

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"Never in our lifetime have eyes beheld its equal!"

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