

With the Editor—

**An Amazing Thing, This Draft.
Which Way Does the Road Lead?**

This draft is an amazing thing. From the day two years ago when we threw a ROTC rifle into the air to celebrate the peace at Munich the world has come a long way.

In those days prophets and peace-mongers even told us what road we would travel on the way to war. We read the signs and told ourselves that was no road for us.

Today we are traveling along it at full speed, sure it is the right road and the right direction, still a bit sorry that it must be so. We are as sincere today as we were two years ago. That is the amazing thing.

We have come a long way since President Roosevelt 13 months ago on a Sunday night just after war had broken told the nation it must be neutral in deed if not in thought.

Today we are neither, and we are glad of it. For that change the immediate cause is France. We had read about little people and little nations falling under foot and were properly shocked, but it took France to really jolt us. The tales of fifth column and sabotage of the political structure only clarified our own situation, made clearer the road we have to travel to preserve our way of life.

We have foregone the idea of peace and uninterrupted continuance of our present way of life. That we are accepting the draft shows that we have accepted the crisis. This is important. There are more steps ahead of us. Taken gradually, they will be no harder to traverse than those we have traversed until now. It is too bad we must waste the time.

Until we accept war, there are a few steps to be traveled. It is a logical step in the series we have been following. The only preventative would be a swift British victory. Prolonged British fighting would bring us into the war soon. Immediate British defeat will restore peace for a time but capitalism and totalitarianism will not live peacefully for long in the world that follows.

If we will admit that our way is the weaker and less desirable we need not fight. We can agree with Anne Morrow Lindberg that what is now going on in Europe is revolution, that the accumulated aspects we have learned to hate are only the scum on the surface of the wave, that rather than waste blood against the inevitable we should change now and peacefully.

We apparently are not ready to admit these things. We are willing to accept preventative measures: Destroyers to Britain, bombers to Britain, and American men into the army. We are going to defend our way of life. We are arming for defense, still hoping it will keep us out of war. The Collegian before has taken the position that we will not be kept out of the war. It still holds to that view and it believes that even war is preferable to premanent and irrevocable totalitarianism.

The draft is a sign that we are accepting this situation. We are accepting the idea that democracy is better than Fascism and the difference is worth fighting for if necessary.

Our next job is to stop being half-hearted. Since 1938 we have come a long way, but the road ahead is still full of toil and sweat and, maybe, blood.

There is one thing to be said for the record. The Collegian has never advocated immediate armed intervention in this war. It believes intervention now would be futile. It has urged, however, that we take all other steps possible to prepare ourselves to put up the strongest fight possible when the moment comes at which our aid will count for something real. This is war-mongering, but it is also facing the facts.

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A LEAN AND HUNGRY LOOK

From what we've been able to glean from the reports of our spies, this past week-end was not what could be called with justice a Heller. Indeed, the local gendarmerie informed us that it had received but one complaint from the outraged citizenry. And that merely because of a besotted gentleman who fell asleep on a horn button in an automobile that apparently was not his own.

The Corner reported nothing beyond the ordinary, with the possible exception of two students who, having become enraged at each other, spent several happy moments throwing food about. Resides' man on horseback could add nothing to anything. The cab business has lost much of its former romance. We were fairly disappointed at these indications of a growing sadness on the part of one and all. Down in the Dog-House there was naught of the unusual; Saturday evening however, our statistician has discovered, more people per square inch were tossed out than on any previous Sat. Eve. of Alumni Week-end, fiscal year ending June 1941.

As our gentle reader will probably have heard, one of Life Magazine's gentlemen was roaming about the town this past Saturday. Taking pictures of a Mr. Jefferies and cohorts. When Life's man, a photographer by trade, discovered that there was also a first class Pep Rally there for the shooting. Ridge Riley with the hairtrigger judgment so common among his ilk, immediately telegraphed Life magazine for permission to get several shots of the event.

That was in the afternoon. So, comes 7:30 and Life wires our boy permission. That is to say the wire arrived in State College at the aforementioned hour. The photographer received the wire at Rec Hall at ten minutes after eight. Post Meridian. Which, being translated into simple mathematics, means that it must have taken some forty minutes for the wire to get from Allen street up to Rec Hall. Sort of an all-time record for something or other. Perhaps this is but another bit of hand-writing on the wall. Perhaps we Americans are getting soft. At least the telegraph boys aren't showing the way towards the better life. No pun intended.

We have this from a friend of ours. Its veracity is questionable. But Leyden, son of Leyden got rid of his jewelry by the simple process of giving it to Jackie Reese. Any denials will be given full application. But we don't expect any denials.

Some one would do well to take the latest attempt at a ROTC band and slug it gently but firmly behind the left ear. The band's rendition of the Star Spangled banner, during the last parade was nothing if not sad. We offer the suggestion purely in the spirit of aesthetic purity.

—Cassius.

Nibbling At The News

J. GORDON FAY

Whispering

Thus far the 1940 Presidential campaign has been marked by more than the usual mud-slinging, with both candidates being the recipients of plenty of the moistened dirt, but the latest low blow takes the prize. We refer to the "smear Willkie" whispering campaign in which the Republican nominee is called a "tool of Hitler."

It seems doubtful that such a campaign would issue from Mr. Willkie's opposition. A hint as to the source from which such statements might emanate may be found in Edmond Taylor's recent article, "Yes, We Have Fifth Columnists," in "America."

Mr. Taylor says, "Whispering

campaigns which blacken a leader's character create a doubt which is deadly to morale . . . Anyone who spreads such rumors (unknowingly) helps the Fifth Column."

Reading farther in the "whispering campaign" pamphlet distributed by a shadowy organization, "the Guardians of the Republic," one finds the following statement: "Today, Nazi agents in the United States are saying that Wendell L. Willkie, if elected President of the United States, will be the focal point around which the 18,000,000 Americans of German descent will be organized into a specific group whose ties of blood and fate are with Nazi Germany."

If such a plot is in existence, the writer of this column would like to stick his neck out to the extent of saying that Adolf Hitler has a considerable factor of error in his calculations, both in regard to cooperation from Mr. Willkie, Mr. Roosevelt or any other American in the public eye, and in regard to a Pennsylvanian of German descent.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Meeting of the Deutscher Verein at 7 p. m., Hugh Beaver Room, Old Main.

Freshman Independent meeting at 7 p. m. in room 405 Old Main. Freshman women have received permission from WSGA Senate to attend.

Tryouts for upperclassmen interested in debate to be held at 7 p. m. in room 8 Liberal Arts.

Community Service Committee meets in Philotes room at 7 p. m. with Jean Weaver presiding.

Student Faculty Relations Committee meets in the Penn State in China room, Old Main, 7 p. m.

WRA second Open House in White Hall from 7 to 9:30 p. m. tonight.

Soph Hop committee meeting, 318 Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

Cwen meeting in WSGA room, White Hall at 7:30 p. m.

Iota Sigma Pi open house for women in chemistry, 8 p. m.

Meeting of the business candidates and staff members of the Penn State Farmer in room 308 Old Main at 7:30 p. m.

No Druid meeting as scheduled today.

CINEMANIA

Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland provide music with laughs in "Strike Up the Band," musical romance, coming to the Cathaum Theatre on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Aided by June Preisser and other juvenile players, Mickey and Judy organize a swing band in high school. Their adventures range from staging a comical travesty on old time plays to winning Paul Whitman's prize.

Song favorites in the picture include, "Nobody," "Our Love Affair" and Gershwin's "Strike Up the Band."

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