

**Footlights—**

**'Balloon Goes Up' With A Loud Bang**

By MRS. H. RIDGE RILEY

The balloon—and curtain—went up at seven sharp last night and the milling houseparty mob was back in the rain by nine, after as smart a variety show as the Thespians have concocted for many a moon.

Things moved right along from the first, with Director Sock Kennedy participating in the introduction of the cast to the audience and the Campus Owls and Glee Club neatly roped off at either side of the stage, leaving plenty of room in the middle for the specialties. Trotting out the director and principals that way caught our fancy particularly because we didn't know who the performers were aside from Marce Stringer and a couple of the Stooges. Thespians didn't go far enough with those introductions and neither did their printed program — we still don't know exactly who did most of the baker's dozen of numbers that comprise "The Balloon Goes Up," but we know what we liked—most of the show.

That Stringer girl, Startzel of the Stooges, and ROTC Rabinowitz are the pace-setting personalities. No matter what their material, they wrap the stage around them and never trip over it. This stage ease must be contagious for the Thespians seem to enjoy their work more than usual. Only a few of the dancers and singers need to relax that grim determination to put the right foot forward and make the next note true. "Say It" would be better if fortified with more of this spirit, for instance.

"Friendship," "ROTC," "Mourning at the Dispensary" and "Bo-Peep" got the gladdest hands from the audience, including us, and deserved this applause for cleverness and smooth performance. "Love Is Just Around the Corner" unusual, plus the dire dispensary take-off and the ROTC affair just mentioned, should give the houseparty visitors a moderately clear picture of the Penn State scene, which doesn't enter much into other parts of the show.

"Alice Blue Gown," an elaborate arrangement, courtesy of Fred Waring, turned out to be an effective production number involving the Glee Club, Campus Owls, dancing chorus, female trio, and blonde in blue gown. That trio, called the Singerettes, sounds good and looks very fetching, too, which is really something for Thespian trios.

"Heil Swastika" put the Stooges through their political paces in a number that had little appeal for us and seemed out of keeping with the general tone of "The Balloon Goes Up." We prefer the boys in their campus routines, even though they have their funny moments in this slightly unsavory piece.

The Campus Owls, directed by Jimmy McAdams, do a strictly satisfying orchestral accompaniment to most of the acts, and last night also filled in for a missing number, much to the pleasure of the crowd.

It is gratifying to confirm pre-show reports that the Thespians developed a new unity, cooperation, and zest for their work in the process of this production. "The Balloon Goes Up" is smooth entertainment for which everyone connected with it is responsible. We recommend it as a swell prelude to your housepartying tonight.

**LaVie Yearbook Takes First Class Honor Rating**

LaVie, College yearbook, won a first class rating last week in the annual intercollegiate and high school competition sponsored by the National Scholastic Press at Minneapolis.

Of 852 competing yearbooks, La Vie was one of 120 annuals that captured this rating, which was not given to any other college in Pennsylvania. A second class rating was given to Dickinson College along with several high school publications.

**'Reader Appeal' In New Campaign For Chesterfield**

"Give the readers what they like" appears to be the basis of Chesterfield Cigarettes' advertising series, appearing in newspapers throughout America beginning this week in which Grantland Rice, famed sports writer, and his daughter Florence, rising star of stage and screen; Sid Luckman, All-American back; Mary Lou Bullard, All-American College Girl, Bette Davis; the United States Marines "at ease," and many other famous personalities and events will appear.

Fred Waring's "Pleasure Time," broadcast five nights weekly on the National Broadcasting Company stations, and Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade," on the Columbia network continue their Chesterfield successes.

**ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR**

**TODAY:**

Varsity football, South Carolina vs. Penn State, New Beaver Field, 2 p. m.

Freshman football, Cornell vs. Penn State, practice field, 12:30. Soccer, Penn State vs. Navy at Annapolis.

Cross country, Penn State vs. Manhattan, New York City.

Thespian show, "The Balloon Goes Up," at 7 p. m. in Schwab Auditorium.

House dancing, 9 p. m. to midnight.

**TOMORROW:**

Chapel, 11 a. m., Schwab Auditorium.

Some 1,200 different classes are offered at the University of Texas.

**ASCE Student Chapter Receives National Award**

Penn State's student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers has received a letter of commendation from the president of the society in recognition for the conduct of its activities during the year 1939-40.

Each year the society commends those student chapters whose activities have been outstanding. The awards are based on the service of the chapter to its membership and the society, the quality of the programs presented at its meetings and the reports made to the national society.

This is the second consecutive year the Penn State chapter has received this award. The officers of the society last year were: James K. Hess '40, president; John D. Hunsicker '41, secretary; Prof. John S. Leister, faculty adviser.

**CINEMANIA**

Marlene Dietrich, as a heart-throbbing cafe belle of the South Seas, portrays the kind of role only she can do so well in "Seven Sinners," her new Universal film which opened yesterday at the Cathaum Theatre.

Opposite her in the part of a young naval officer is John Wayne and it is a new kind of character for this rugged young leading man whose star is rising so rapidly.

While first honors must go to Miss Dietrich and Wayne, an outstanding portrayal is given by Broderick Crawford as a beached navy man who attaches himself to the cafe singer and follows her from one tropical isle to another. Miss Dietrich introduces three new songs in the picture.

—JEMcC



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