

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For A Better Penn State

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Wednesday Morning, December 11, 1940

Introducing The Freshman Class To Campus Politics

The freshman class is being dipped—very suddenly—into the art of student self government. From the time of its elections mass meeting last night until the polls are closed next Monday night the freshmen will learn a lot about the implications of democratic government.

Their learning, which is already well begun in the political cliques, is under the guiding leadership of seasoned upperclassmen, politicians of the first water.

They will be taught the importance of smiles, contacts and promises. They will learn a bit about the spoils system but not nearly as much as they will know by the time they are upperclassmen.

Their election is being taken very seriously by the upperclassmen. This is not strange. In itself it is not too important. Its officers will not be called on to make momentous decisions between now and the time they are ushered out of office in May and they will not receive much compensation.

What the upperclassmen consider important is the barometer aspect of the freshman election. More often than not the results of the freshman elections have shown the direction of the general spring elections.

The upperclass cliques have used the freshman elections as a means of setting their own strength in somewhat the same way the combatants in the European War first tested themselves in Spain. The analogy is not as bad as it sounds.

Through the system of which elections marked by politics are necessarily a part, Penn State has built up one of the strongest student self-governments in the country.

It has used as its model the national government and has copied its technique even down to the establishment of open and active political division, the same sort of division that has made for robust national government.

On some hands this sort of division has been deplored. It has been felt that campus elections should be conducted on a higher plane, that they should be removed from politics, and that they should be taught the ideal rather than the real system.

As long as human nature remains the way it is, Collegian is inclined to believe that the College will do the state a better service if it turns out leaders who understand log-rolling, trading, spoils system, and the like. The alternative is a bunch of naive boys in for a great disillusioning.

"Unless we are willing to claim or admit that the population of this country is as a whole of an inferior type or that its leadership is poor, we are forced to conclude that we need not weep over the fact that the lowly classes are contributing much to the population. In fact, if it were not for them the professional and other so-called upperclasses would become a constantly diminishing segment of the population." Dr. Constantine Panunzio, assistant professor of sociology at the University of California, denies it is a calamity that the poor have the most babies.



Last week's sale of tickets for the Artist's Course greatly strengthened our long-held conviction that many of this noble institution's extra-curricular functions are directed from a chaste, slim, ivory tower swaying gently in a mist of confusion. One is tempted to question what manner of dreamy philosophy evolved the scheme whereby several hundred persons were obliged to wait for hours for the privilege of spending their money for seats in the acoustical monstrosity that is Schwab Auditorium. Why, may we inquire, was only one ticket window used when two were available? (We will not be satisfied with the answer that too much confusion would have thus resulted. *Non sequitur*—more confusion would have been impossible.) Why was there so little time in which to buy tickets; would Old Main have settled beneath the earth if all the seats had not been sold within the three day limit? After all, it is the student body which actually pays for the Artist's Course, although too often the impression is left that the whole business is the creation and philanthropy of a few wise and benevolent gods. Indeed we were recently given to understand that the gods were "pleased with the attitude of the students." They had damn' well better be pleased. Such Olympian chit-chat does nothing to alter the fact that the ticket sales for their little excursion into the realms of culture was inefficient, confused, and entirely unsatisfactory.

So much for the commercial angle. Let us consider the aesthetic . . .

This past Monday evening we had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Paul Robeson's magnificent singing. Nothing we might write could possibly do justice to that gentleman's voice; his rendition of John LaTouche's "Ballade for Americans" was brilliant. But to us the most impressive number he sang was one which he termed a modern folksong, written by a prisoner in a German concentration camp. We have rarely been so stirred or as gratified as we were when Mr. Robeson, having sung the first several stanzas in English, sang the last lines in German, and thereby gave the song all the power and beauty it possessed. We sincerely hope that Mr. Robeson realizes just how much he was appreciated by his audience.

"And if you don't do anything else this week-end, you really ought to stop in at the Foresters' Ball. There, the word flies round, the foresters themselves may be viewed as gentlemen. This would seem to indicate a serious inferiority complex on the part of the lumbermen. We have a mental picture of a little man in a black cloak muttering into a forester's ear . . . "Why aren't you smooth like those fellows in Commerce and Finance? Wise up, friend." Cassius.

Letters to the Editor--

A Freshman's Answer

The letter written by Mr. Setlow was obviously written in a moment of revolt, and (knowing Mr. Setlow as I do) a moment of reminiscence. No true State man, even a transfer student, gives vent to his feelings in such a childish and ineffective way. If Setlow fears that we freshmen are taking too much, let him personally relieve the tension and pressure and provide us with the much needed respite by letting us tan his hide publicly in front of Old Main.

Mr. Setlow's attitude does not conform to the intangible, yet important, Penn State spirit which we hear so much about. Perhaps Mr. Setlow would appreciate our spirit more had he attended Penn State as a freshman.

Mr. Setlow should realize that his letter did the Freshmen no good nor did it do Mr. Corbin and his slimy stooges (hatmen) any harm.

We appreciate his well-meant efforts to play big brother to us frosh, but most of us have managed to take care of ourselves and escape the Corbin Killers so far.

I had a long talk with Bernie concerning this matter and he swore that he would never beat a freshman, but that is no reason for the rest of the upperclassmen being deprived of their opportunity for pleasing, if sarcastic, relaxation.

Our "over-stuffed but moronic faculty" undoubtedly have been freshmen themselves and they sincerely believe that hazing is as good a process of elimination of the weak in character as any other system devised.

I wouldn't attempt to offer any suggestions, but it might be a good idea to have Mr. Setlow and his ilk "taken care of," as he is undermining all the discipline that the upperclassmen have attempted to instill in us, besides tearing down freshmen class spirit and giving the impression that the class of '44 would even think of revolting.

P. S. We wouldn't win anyhow.
Mort Rosenfeld
'44 Forever

New Trustee Chosen

The addition of Richard Maize, Secretary of Mines, to the College Board of Trustees was announced yesterday by Wilmer E. Kenworthy, executive secretary in the President's office. Mr. Maize fills the vacancy created by the death of John Ira Thomas, former Secretary of Mines.

Girdwood Elected Prexy

Oliver L. Girdwood '42 was elected president of the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity Monday night.

CINEMANIA

Hollywood's "one hundred most beautiful girls" against a background of lavish settings feature "A Night At Earl Carroll's," the musical comedy film scheduled for the Cathaum theatre today and tomorrow.

Ken Murray and Rose Hobart supply the comedy and romantic interest, J. Carroll Naish fills in as the villain, Brenda and Cobina, of radio fame, run wild in their search for men, and Earl Carroll himself contributes to the plot.

The plot involves an attempt by Rackets-Czar Naish to break up a party at Earl Carroll's Hollywood night club. Ken Murray and Rose Hobart carry on with the show while Brenda and Cobina, newly rich as a result of oil struck on their property, add to the confusion with their hilarious man-chasing antics.

LEGAL PAPERS
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4-H Club Holds Informal Discussion On Leadership

Taking their theme from the Thirteenth National 4-H Club Camp at Washington, D.C., held during June 15-21, 1939, the College 4-H Club discussed the subject of leadership at a recent meeting.

The informal discussion was led by Dorothy M. Boring '44 with Annabelle Wetzel '43, Margaret A. Cole '42, Louise E. Carter '42, and Elwood B. Standt '42 acting as round table participants. After the discussion Prof. Allen L. Baker, agricultural extension division, spoke on the correlation between 4-H club activities and leadership.

PSCA Forum Tonight

The second in a series of PSCA forums will be presented in the Home Economics Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. tonight. The subject, "Is Pan-Americanism Practical?", will be discussed by Arthur H. Reede, assistant professor of economics and William Gray, instructor in Latin-American history.

Alpha Chis To Dine

Lambda Chi Alpha is entertaining Alpha Chi Omega at dinner tonight.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

- TODAY:**
TM boxing, Rec Hall, 4 p.m.
LA faculty meeting, Room 121, Liberal Arts, 4:10 p.m.
AAUP meeting, Sandwich Shop, 7 p.m.
Druid meeting, Room 412, Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Carol Sing committee, Room 304, Old Main, 3 p.m.
Community Service Committee, Room 304, Old Main, 8 p.m.
PSCA Cabinet meeting, Room 304, Old Main, 8:15 p.m.
Agriculture Student Council, Room 418, Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
Freshman Independent Party, Room 318, Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
Reservations for Drydock Christmas party, Student Union, 50 cents per couple.
Wednesday Library Reading, Room 402, Library, 4:15 p.m.
PSCA Forum, Home Economics Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- TOMORROW:**
P. L. Reeves, assistant manager of Timken Roller Bearing Co., will speak to the A.S.M.E. in Room 121, Liberal Arts, 7:30 p.m.
W. L. Cook, personnel director of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Co., will speak to the A.S.M. in Room 405, Old Main, 7:15 p.m.
Christmas party for Le Cercle Francais, Grange playroom 8 p.m.
- THURSDAY:**
AAUW meeting and social for all senior women in Room 110, Home Economics, 8:15 p.m. Dean Whitmore will speak.

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