

**THE DAILY COLLEGIAN**

"For A Better Penn State"

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**Editor** Ross Lehman '42 **Bus. and Adv. Mgr.** James McCaughey '42

**Editorial and Business Office** 818 Old Main Bldg. Phone 711 **Downtown Office** 119-121 South Frazier St. Phone 4372

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Friday, November 14, 1941

**Defend Our Traditions!**

**We Have Some, You Know**

With a music conference here this weekend based on the theme of "American Unity Through Music" and revealing the vast musical heritage of the United States, it seems appropriate to point out America's cultural background, which too many Americans overlook.

Students here on campus are turning to music as the one release from mental worries. A sign language for all nationalities and schools of thought, music respects the opinion and ideals of all groups.

Jazz, swing, boogie woogie, classical, and semi-classical music bring the backwoods and the sophisticated man into a common bond of understanding. Students can have a share in building a better world through music education where racial prejudice eventually will find no place, where nationalism in its narrow sense will give way to internationalism, and where music may become again the tongue of nations.

A "Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar" or "Minuet in G" tune will do more to further American culture than the combined efforts of all American ambassadors or foreign ententes.

Americans have been told so often that they have no cultural background that many of them believe it. When an European looks down his nose at our traditional lack of culture, too many of us are apologetic. With the "proud pasts" of many European countries dying under the force of invader nations and the invader nations throwing their historic culture into the flames, America remains as one of the few lands in which traditions still mean something to the people.

Americans are told they have no artistic and political importance. Yet today the United States is the home of culture. America's moving pictures are the best produced. The American theater is the most active in the world. The famous Russian ballet makes its home in "the States" and foreign stars appear in American stage, screen, and radio productions. Over the airlines America controls the world's radio entertainment. The greatest art exhibitions are held here. America's artists are more numerous and active than those of any other nation. American musicians are leaders of new forms. While the Europeans live in the classicism of Beethoven, Bach, and Brahms, the United States is creating a "modern classicism." And yet Americans feel inferior when foreigners scoff at American art!

Politically there is no reason for the United States to accept any longer the condescending tag of "stripling Democracy" and such similar names conferred by nations who brag that their history goes back to the time when America was just an explorer's delusion. Today America holds the controlling hand in the world's political and diplomatic life, a prodigious child, indeed!

After all, it is kind of silly to regard 165 years of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Mark Twain, Stephen Foster, Currier and Ives, Walt Whitman, Daniel Webster, David Garrick, Edward MacDowell, Washington Irving, Ralph Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau as an insignificant, cultureless childhood.

—N. W. V.

**A Worm's Eye View**

**Drink, Drink, And Be Merry**

I met Ferdy, my measuring worm friend, in the Sandwich Shop yesterday, and we had a lengthy discussion together. By degrees I worked the conversation around to the drinking problem because I was interested in his viewpoint.

"I'm glad you brought this up," he said. "It gives me an opportunity to recite the verse I composed about it. It goes like this:

A roadhouse mourner sat in the Corner  
Sucking a coke through a straw.  
For she knew she was caught  
By Cabinet's all-clutching claw."

"You don't seem to be taking the situation very seriously," I said.

"Well, I'm not trying to wiggle out of anything, but I think enough has been said. If people go on talking about it, they won't have time to drink anyway. It's Cabinet's job to figure it out, and students should be patient until they plow through the usual political red tape to solve it."

**They've Caged That Lion**

"About this lion shrine, Ferdy," I began, dismissing the drinking subject.

"Stop right there," Ferdy interrupted. "That's about the silliest situation I've come across around here. Here's a bunch of students, roaring for a \$5,000 lion shrine, and when they finally get it, they can't decide where to put it."

"They haven't any decision to make," I said. "He's going to be tied up at Rec Hall. That's the place he was designed for and that's where he's going."

"I know all about that," said Ferdy, looking me square in the face. "I just think the students should stick to decisions once they're made. Why didn't they kick up a fuss before he was designed for the water tower? And what's the matter with having him at Rec Hall anyway?"

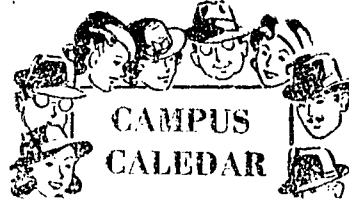
"It's a less frequented spot at Penn State," I said. "People won't see much of him there."

"Well, maybe now that he's going to be up there it'll become a more frequented spot from now on. Students have a tendency to cluster around Old Main and downtown points too much. It seems to me that the center of all campus inactivity is right here in the Sandwich Shop. Maybe they ought to put a couple of lion cubs up on Ag Hill."

Ferdy grinned and slipped under a crack in the floor.

—PIX.

Science is using the tough ends of asparagus stalks for defense products. This should be encouraged—some day they may find some defense for us against spinach.



**TODAY**

Advanced accounting students meeting, 10 Sparks Building, 2 p. m. Job opportunities and qualifications will be discussed.

Business staff of Penn State Engineer will meet in Room 314, Old Main at 7 p. m. Freshmen candidates for the staff should attend the meeting.

Junior Editorial board meeting, Collegian office, 4 p. m.

Evening services and debate at Hillcl Foundation, 7:15 p. m.

Christmas Carol Sing committee, Hugh Beaver Room, 4 p. m.

Cars for the All-College cabin party at the PSCA cabin will leave from rear of Old Main, 5 p. m.

Freshman Council Cabin Retreat committee, second floor lounge, Old Main, 6:30 p. m.

Dr. Vernon Nash will speak on "Anglo-American Imperialism or World Federation," 121 Sparks, 7:15 p. m.

**TOMORROW**

Meeting of all committees for Big-Little Sister tea in MacAllister lounge immediately after the

**Letters to the Editor—**

**A Shiny Apple For The Teacher**

To the Editor:

I think that Mr. Forester deserves some mention in your paper. May I recommend the following:

Mr. Forester, may I voice in writing the thoughts of your History 21 class. You are not only an excellent instructor but you have the rare attributes of humor and understanding. Your assignment for the weekend—"Jafi Savitt 10"—was fully appreciated by the class.

A Thankful Coed.

game Saturday.

Chem-Physics student council meets Sunday 7:30 p. m., Room 313, Old Main.

Roller skating in Armory tonight, 7 to 9 and 9 to 11. Sponsored by recreation coordinated. Credit for Phys. Ed. elective.

All Freshmen men invited to attend the PSCA Cabin Retreat after the varsity football game. Will meet at PSCA office in Old Main.

Varsity members of WRA rifle club report to Rifle Range, White Hall, 10 a. m. to 12 noon.

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