

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Thursday, November 20, 1941

One Man's Meat

Ignorance! What Bliss!?

The long silver and gray bus pushed its way through the deepening dusk of a November evening, struggling up the hills toward our high, secluded valley. A few golden lights added a warm glow to the muffled chatter of a dozen students, returning to their alma mater.

The elderly woman sitting beside me was quietly listening to the conversations going on all about us. I caught snatches of that inane chit-chat called "undergraduate patois." Abruptly the woman turned and asked me, "Don't college students ever talk about anything more important than dates, bands, or sports? Aren't they at all concerned about what happens in the rest of the world?"

I qualified her questions by explaining that these were a special kind of college students. These, I pointed out, were of the species *Nittany Valliensis*. No, I answered, these creatures hardly ever thought of anything else but physical exercise.

I pointed out that it had not always been that way. In the balmy pinkish days before the war, Penn State students, under the diligent prodding of such men as Dugan, Froth's last great editor, participated in peace strikes, joined movements, thought about national and international problems—in general acted more like socially conscious men and women found in other great halls of learning.

Then, yesterday, I met and spoke to Jack MacMichael, former president of the National Intercollegiate Christian Council and present head of the American Youth Congress. Listening to him tell of the great strides made in the South toward political equality by both white and Negro youth, of the heroic struggles of the youth of China to educate themselves as future leaders of a reborn nation, I reopened the question in my mind.

How is it that the students of China, most of whom have barely enough to subsist on, sacrifice to send aid to the students of Europe while Penn State quibbles about sending a few dollars abroad? Chinese students are going without food so that aid can be sent to their war-stricken fellow-students in Europe. But here in the peaceful calm of our Pennsylvania hills, we sit and split hairs about sending desperately needed help to China.

Other colleges the country over are actively aiding the defense effort. Other university students are making themselves be heard on great national policies which will eventually effect them.

You or your boyfriend is going to be called soon to become part of an armed force designed to defend ourselves and similarly thinking people from fascist aggression. Why, in the name of the Lion Shrine or some similarly stupid ideal, don't you try to find out what the hell it's all about.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Ski Club meets 418 Old Main, 7:30 p. m. All interested in skiing invited.

Coeds may sign for WRA Outing Club cabin party on dormitory bulletin boards or in WRA office until 5 p. m. tomorrow.

Penn State Riding Club meets in Stock Judging Pavilion at 7 p. m.

Christian Science Testimonial meeting in 118 Home Economics Buildings at 7:30 p. m.

Dancing Club meets in Rhythm Room, White Hall at 4 p. m.

Outing Club meets in 3 White Hall at 6:30 p. m.

Swimming Club meets White Hall at 6:30 p. m.

Swimming Club meets White Hall Pool at 7:30 p. m.

Fencing Club meets in Body Mechanics Room, White Hall at 6:45 p. m.

Coffee Round Table meeting at Hillel Foundation at 4:15 p. m.

PSCA Forum-Council social committee, Room E, 304 Old Main, 4 p. m.

Board of Directors of the PSCA meet in Hugh Beaver room, 4 p. m. All campus Woodycrest commit-

tees meet in Home Ec. 4 p. m. Freshman Council publicity committee, Hugh Beaver room, 5 p. m.

Philotes executive committee will meet in 302 Old Main at 3:00 p. m.

DeMolay meeting, new Masonic Building, S. Frazier street, 7:30 p. m. All former members requested to attend.

Observatory will be open between 9 and 10 p. m. for the observation of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars.

TOMORROW

There will be no Engineering Lecture today. The next lecture will be given on Friday, December 5.

MISCELLANEOUS

Candidates for varsity and intramural boxing report to Rec Hall, 4 p. m. Monday.

Naval Unit Physicals

Applicants wishing to join Penn State's Naval flight training unit, the "Nittany Lions," will be given physical examinations at the Infirmary beginning at noon today and continuing until Saturday, according to Thomas W. Allison '42, season, second class, V5.

Action On Drinking

"Has the All-College Cabinet lost its teeth or is it shamming on the drinking situation?" is the question, asked by students. To that inquiry there is a definite "No!"

Cabinet, realizing its responsibility in initiating its drinking legislation, is wary of making mistakes. It does not want to set up machinery which will conflict with its representative units, nor does it want to tramp upon the toes of College jurisdiction.

Student government is making no attempt to establish a moral code. That is an individual task instead of a governmental one. It does not want to set up a prohibition period where parked cars and roadhouses will be frequented by students who "want a drink." Cabinet does not want to be policemen where every drink is a violation. It does not care to be a father, mother, and nursemaid.

What then is the purpose of the drinking legislation? If it is not aimed as a moral issue, what other motive does Cabinet have?

The answer is simple. The action of every Penn State student is an action which reflects and places responsibility upon the character of the entire student body. Penn State is both an individual and collective agency. It represents the thought of one or 7,000 students. It bears the responsibility of one or 7,000 students.

Cabinet recognized this. It saw that the greatest potential sore spot in Penn State's reputation could be the drinking situation. Cabinet acted quickly. It did not say to students, "Don't drink because drinking is bad or immoral." But it did say, "We, as a student governing body, are responsible for your actions when you are under the influence of liquor."

However, the method of curbing mixed drinking could not be determined until all organizations gave their interpretation. This takes time. Last Tuesday night, this phase was ironed out when the College, WSGA, IMA, IFC, and other groups expressed their stand in regard to the forming of drinking legislation.

How can Cabinet enforce its regulation? The best way is to use its organizations as the spokes of a central judiciary body. Minor infractions and violations can fall under the jurisdiction of a particular body, but major violations can be tried by a Cabinet judiciary body. If a representative group does not enforce its individual code, Cabinet has the power to crack down on that group.

Investigations by Cabinet can be made at any time and it is empowered to see that its drinking code is carried out. Not only does Cabinet cover the entire student body in a blanket law, but it supplements both WSGA and IFC drinking codes and institutes a common code instead of two or three varying ones.

WSGA may believe that it has no jurisdiction on women who are over 21 years of age, but Cabinet realizes that every student who attends Penn State is responsible as a student to the institution for his actions. Therefore, a woman over 21 years of age still is subject to Cabinet rulings if she participates in mixed drinking.

The answer to many questions is still unknown. These questions will be answered with the improvement of the present legislature. But one thing is certain. That is the resolution of Cabinet to protect its student government, and students as individuals, from the blaming of Penn State as a "drinking college."

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