

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday, December 5, 1941

A Pipe Dream

A good pipe, a bowlful of tobacco, and an easy chair transports one readily from the practical world of today to the "pipe-dreams" of tomorrow. We had such a dream last night.

We envisioned the Penn State of tomorrow—a Penn State free from problems of draft, limited budgets, and the petty efforts of educational politicians to restrain the College from becoming a university.

Our pipe dream gave us hallucinations. We saw Harrisburg legislators (fresh from barber shops, corner drug stores, and grocery stores) recognize Penn State as the hub of Pennsylvania's research on mining, industry, engineering, and oil technology. They saw the average college student as a man who is earnestly attempting to establish a career—not a college "hot dog," dressed in vari-colored duds with calf-length trousers, and fortified with a superiority complex and a goldfish appetite.

Still more fantastic, the pipe dream pictured these men creating a sizeable budget. They did not pinch "dollars for education" but proposed that a dollar for education meant \$10 for Pennsylvania in research, social betterment, and economic improvement.

These legislators budgeted the College appropriation carefully, wisely, but efficiently. They advocated the continuation of extension education and College-sponsored night schools for Pennsylvania miners, steel workers, and office workers. They awoke from their apathy toward College educated men and cried for more education for those who could not afford "book larnin'" at endowed institutions.

The pipe dream did not end here. A few more puffs on the briar created other mental pictures. We saw a continuation of the proposed \$17,000,000 College physical plant. More than 10,000 students were pouring from classrooms and research laboratories; hundreds of extension professors were invading the foundry, the coal-pit, and the oil refineries, to teach the mill hands the "inside dope" on their particular jobs.

We watched the growth of a healthy interfraternity system and the unifying of the non-fraternity man into workable representation. We saw the increase of campus forums, student-faculty interests, furious but clean political campaigns, sturdy student governments, and President Ralph D. Hetzel smilingly wielding a shovel in ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Student Union building.

We smiled in contentment as we followed the Collegian editor to the teletype of a press service and read the syndicated columns of the eight-page Daily Collegian. We guffawed at the streamline frothiness of Froth and were happy that students still told jokes, subscribed to Esquire, and played football.

We wondered at the ambition and energy of youth in reconstructing a world which had been thrown into what pessimistic oldtimers called "the end of the world." We applauded the blunders and mistakes of students who tried to correct a wrong by attempting to do right. We walked arm in arm with professors who learned along with their students and who believed that growing old was not a physical loss of youth but the loss of a youthful attitude.

As the last wisp of smoke curled into the air, we laid our pipe regretfully on the desk, got up from the easy chair, rolled up our sleeves, and started plodding toward that "pipe dream" of tomorrow.

A Worm's Eye View



I had a hard time finding Ferdie yesterday. As a last resort, I climbed to Old Main tower, and there he was, wiggling around in a pile of rulers on the wall of the balcony.

"Of all the screwy places for a measuring worm to be in," I said. "And for the luvva mud, what are you doing with all those rulers?"

"It's a hobby of mine to collect rulers and determine the degree of inaccuracy, according to traditional measuring worm standards," he said, poking one of them with his head. "This one's about a hundredth of a centimeter off."

"Peculiar hobby," I said. "Well, I do it only when I've reached a conclusion about some campus activity and have nothing else to do."

"What's the conclusion this time?" I asked. "The conclusion is," he said, measuring his words carefully, "that if you give a student an inch, he'll take it."

"What do you mean?" "I'm referring to student-faculty relationships. As far as I can see, there's no necessity for all the griping going on around here about the faculty's indifferent attitude toward students. There are too many people inventing problems so that they can keep their minds busy solving them when they ought to be studying."

"It isn't just the students who are messing around in this thing," I said.

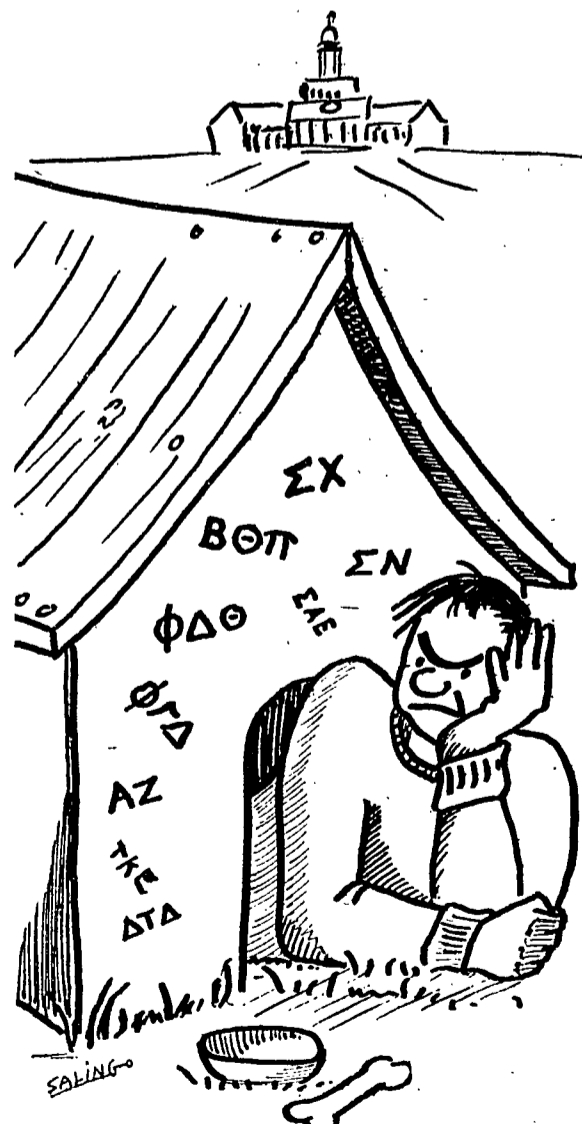
"Maybe it isn't, but I've found that students do more complaining about the incompetency of the faculty than the faculty does about the students."

"How do you know?"

"Well, I've been getting around the past week or so, and I've spoken to a few professors. Most of them seem perfectly willing to speak with students outside of class without considering the apple-polishing angle. Students, on the other hand, are afraid of classmate criticism and resort to complaints about the faculty to keep their social prestige in their own crowds. They should realize that some day they'll have the same bald heads and twitching habits that they complain about now. Some of them are well on the way already."

"How about the committee that takes care of this question?" I asked.

"Such a committee is all right as long as it lets nature take its course," said Ferdie. "It should concentrate on professors who are already willing to cooperate with students, and there are plenty of them."



"I forgot to take her to 'The Corner'"

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Meeting of the '45 class members of the Westminster Foundation at the residence of Grace Gray, 440 W. Beaver avenue, 7 p. m.

PSCA Freshman Council entertainment committee meeting, 304 Old Main, 4:30 p. m.

Newman Club anniversary party, Phi Kappa, 8 p. m.

Engineering lecture in 121 Sparks, 4:10 p. m. Speaker, Prof. C. E. Bullinger, topic—"The Letter of Application."

Motion pictures, "London Night," and two other films will be shown in the Hugh Beaver Room, 304 Old Main, at 4:30 p. m.

Address to agricultural staff, room 109 Ag Building, 4:10 p. m. Dr. P. A. Wells, director of the Eastern Region Research Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TOMORROW

Taxidermy class will meet in Old Main lobby, 1:30 p. m.

ASCE meeting, 107 Main Engineering, 7 p. m. Movies of the Golden Gate bridge construction will be shown.

Advanced instruction for Riding Club members, Riding Club paddocks, 2 p. m.

Riding Club business meeting, Stock Judging Pavilion, 1:30 p. m. Compulsory for all members and instructors.

Student-Faculty Poll Announced

In an effort to further common interests between instructors and the student body, the Student-Faculty Relations Committee is conducting a survey on student hobbies.

Student hobby enthusiasts are requested to fill out this questionnaire and turn it in at Student Union by noon tomorrow.

Name
School Class
Hobby interests 1.....
2.....
3.....
Would you be interested in meeting with a group interested in similar hobbies?
How often?

HEY, HEADING FOR HOME? Start right and easy! Send your luggage round-trip by trusty, low-cost RAILWAY EXPRESS, and take your train with peace of mind. We pick-up and deliver, remember, at no extra charge within our regular vehicle limits in all cities and principal towns. You merely phone RAILWAY EXPRESS NATION-WIDE RAIL-AIR SERVICE

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