

# THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Wednesday, December 10, 1941

## The Draft Hasn't Changed

As A. O. Morse, assistant to the President in charge of resident instruction and head of the central draft committee of the College, said Monday, the Selective Service Act was prepared for war and "no rapid change is needed."

That is the best reason why student draft registrants should not become unduly apprehensive of being called immediately. Of course, no one can dispute the fact that the war has "stepped up" the draft; no one can overlook the fact that Congress is considering lowering the draft age to 18, and that this will probably be done.

Nevertheless, it is wrong for students to feel that they will be indiscriminately drafted. Just because there is a war, normal conscription procedure will not be thrown on the scrap heap. As far as the draft is concerned, we have been at war since October 17, 1940.

Also as Mr. Morse pointed out, the draft is selective: each registrant presents an individual problem to his local draft board and he is not called if it is felt he is "necessary to the national health, safety, or interest."

That process is now more essential than before. We are at war, and the soldier who works with test tubes, flasks, and beakers is of equal value with the soldier who fires a gun. The Selective Service Act is intended not only to expand the Army but to allow men trained for valuable civilian jobs to work "behind the lines."

It is still true that many students will be drafted. But they won't be called tomorrow or the next day or the next. It is likely that few will be called before the time they would have been if war had not been declared.

Until then, the best thing to do is what President Hetzel suggested when he said we should "keep our heads and work seriously at our given assignments."

—J. A. B.

## A Change In The Dating Code

IFC began consideration last night of a dating code that is more strict than the regulations now in force and that provides for a changed method of enforcement.

The significant part of the code is not its added strength but the new enforcement system. After all, no law is much good if the procedure by which it is to be enforced is not adequate.

As in the present code, a committee of faculty members will judge violations. Under the proposed code, however, five students first decide whether a reported offense is actually a violation of the law.

Why is this student committee necessary? Because violations will be reported to it directly, it does not seem that other students will feel free to report fraternities guilty of breaking the code. Of course, the committee would be pledged to secrecy but it is not natural for most students to risk social ostracism—especially when it would not be for personal gain.

A better method might be to have offenses reported directly to the judicial committee or to another faculty member, such as the dean of men. A student might be better protected when turning in a violator if only faculty members knew the name of the student reporting. —J. A. B.



## The Faculty Says...

### Unique Research

By J. G. ASTON

Professor of Organic Chemistry

I wonder how many students are aware of the unique character of the important scientific work which goes on in the laboratories of the several divisions of the Institution. For instance, in the School of Chemistry and Physics, there is the work of Dr. M. R. Fenske in the petroleum refining laboratory, that of Dr. W. H. Pielermeier on ultrasonics, of Dr. Pauline Berry Mack in textile chemistry and on human nutrition studies, and of Dr. W. R. Ham on the diffusion of gases through metals which is carried on in the low temperature laboratory.

Work in two important fields goes on under the direction of Dr. J. H. Simons which has received less public attention than it deserves. Dr. Simons has initiated very interesting and important work on the chemistry of fluorine and its compounds on which he has many graduate students at work. Fluorine will decompose water and attack most substances with which it comes in contact so that the technique of working with it is very difficult indeed. When fluorine reacts with water it yields an acid, hydrofluoric acid, which will even dissolve glass so that it is small wonder that only a few people feel competent to work with this very interesting and reactive element.

Perhaps as a result of long association with this work Dr. Simons enjoys difficult problems. His other field of study concerns the behaviour of beams of atoms, groups of atoms and molecules. He has examined what the individual atoms and molecules in beams do when deflected by a magnet. To do this he invented a way to sensitize a screen so that a chemical reaction starts wherever the atoms of the beam strike it thus making a much magnified mark on the screen. All this work must be done in a very high vacuum produced only by a special combination of large pumps. Such studies have finally led him to examine what the protons (hydrogen atoms without their electron) in a beam do as they approach the molecules of certain gases. He examines the way in which the protons approach and sometimes attach themselves to the molecules of the gas. The information obtained by this unusual method will serve to throw light on why gases do not behave according to the simple laws.

A group of graduate students are to be found at work on this problem on the top floor of the New Physics Building almost any time of the day or night. Their apparatus is an imposing affair consisting of high vacuum pumps, gauges, and complicated chambers of metal and glass connected by an involved system of valves and tubes. In one of the chambers the beam is produced, in another, protons of all but a single velocity are eliminated while in a third the beam of selected protons passes through the gas, under investigation, at a very low pressure. Most of the complicated metal apparatus is made by the students themselves in the shops of the School of Chemistry and Physics as Dr. Simons considers this a part of their training.

## 'Full Strength' Of Extension Behind U. S. War Effort

The full strength of the College's extension services will be thrown behind America's war effort, J. Orvis Keller, assistant to the president in charge of extension, said following the official declaration of war by Congress.

The extension service expects to train 50,000 Pennsylvania workers during the year through its participation in the government's defense training programs, Mr. Keller said.

This program, under which approximately 18,000 students are now enrolled, is expected to continue with little change for the present at least, he stated, adding it is hoped to train 20,000 more in the program that will be started in the spring and an additional 10,000 next summer.

"In America as in England, it seems inevitable that women will play an increasingly important role," he pointed out, "and while the number of women now enrolled is comparatively large, the ratio will undoubtedly increase."

"It seems unlikely that there will be any of the hysterical preparations that marked our entrance into the last war," Keller said, "as we are now organized to train 50,000 defense workers a year for technical positions in war industries."

## Cast Named For Players

Donald R. Taylor '42 and Elinor F. Herrman '42 will play the leading roles of Petruccio and Katharina in the Player's next production, Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," to be staged February 13 and 14, 1942.

Rehearsals, which began this week, are under the direction of Prof. Frank S. Neusbaum, department of dramatics. Miss Herrman and Taylor were teamed together as leads in Player's "Streets of New York" staged last semester. They also played important roles in the recent production of "The Male Animal."

The main unabridged plot of the Bard's rowdy comedy will be used, according to Neusbaum. It is interpreted as the tempestuous wooing and winning of a high-spirited, self-willed, quick-tempered girl by a man as headstrong and self-willed as she, who teasingly holds up the mirror to her shortcomings and still retains the power to charm her and win her love.

Other members of the cast include Robert H. Herrman '44 as Baptista, father of Kate and Bianca, played by Jean E. Hershberger '43. The drunkard, Sly, will be portrayed by Harold J. Raab '42. Lucentio, the love-sick lad, will be played by Leonard Notis '44.

James J. Ambandos '44 will take the part of Tranio, who is very adept at sneaking up back stairs. His fellow worker, Biollo, will be played by Harold Chidnoff '45. Elinor M. Freedman will portray the wealthy widow. Additional parts have not been cast yet.

## Police Watch For Evergreen Thefts

A request that the stealing and destroying of the Christmas trees lining College avenue and Allen street be stopped, was made yesterday by Chief of Police John R. Juba to Thomas J. Burke '42, student representative on town council.

Several trees, one decorated with \$13 worth of lights, have already been stolen. Juba requested that the IFC and the IMA cooperate in stopping the thefts of the evergreens, which were placed throughout the town by the Commerce Club.

## Engineers Sponsor Van Zandt Talk

Congressman James E. Van Zandt of the 23rd district will speak in 121 Sparks Building at 7:30 p. m. Friday. He is expected to discuss the United States-Japanese conflict.

The meeting is being sponsored by the School of Engineering faculty, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Centre County Engineering Society. Van Zandt recently served with the United States Navy in the Pacific ocean, the main scene of the war.

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

AAUW tea for senior women, Southeast Atherton Hall at 7:45 p. m. Thursday. Mrs. Gertrude M. Williams will discuss "Opportunities for Young Women Starting Out in Life."

Theta Sigma Phi meeting at Kappa Alpha Theta house tomorrow at 6:30 p. m.

Christmas Carol Sing Committee, Room E, 405 Old Main, 4 p. m. Any announcements to be made at the sing should be left in the PSCA office by 5 p. m. Friday.

Worship Study group under Miss Ione V. Sikes, Hugh Beaver Room, 4:15 p. m.

PSCA Cabinet meeting at home of Dean Ralph L. Watts, 225 E. Foster ave., 8:15 p. m.

Christian Science testimonial meeting, 118 Home Economics Building, 7:30 p. m.

Pi Lambda Sigma meeting, Sigma Nu fraternity, 7:30 p. m.

Camera Club lecture, "Snow Pictures," Room 309 Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

College observatory open for the last time until next Spring, tonight and tomorrow night from 8 to 9 p. m. Observations will be of Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

The Community Service committee meets in Penn State, in China Room, Old Main, 7 o'clock today.

All-College election committee, 305 Old Main, 5 p. m.

TOMORROW

Theta Sigma Phi meeting, 6:30 o'clock at the Kappa Alpha Theta house.

Penn State grange, election of officers, 405 Old Main, 7 p. m.

Lecture on "The Soil in Your Own Backyard" by Dr. Richard Bradford, head of the department of agronomy, Cornell University, Room 121 Sparks Building, 7:30 p. m.

Speech by Ernst Wilhelm Meyer, professor of political science at Bucknell University and former secretary of the German Embassy in Washington, 110 Home Economics Building, 8 p. m.

All senior women are invited to join the local branch of the American Association of University Women for tea in the Southeast lounge of Atherton Hall, 7:45 p. m. Mrs. Gertrude Marvin Williams will speak on "Women in World Affairs."

All senior members of Blue Key have been invited to attend the Blue Key dance at the Nittany Lion Inn at 8 p. m. Saturday.

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