

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday, December 19, 1941

A Christmas Editorial

(This editorial was first published in the Collegian two years ago. Because it so well depicts the true spirit of Christmas, even this Christmas of 1941 when we are at war and hate rivals love as the dominant feeling, it is being reprinted today.)

By HERBERT NIPSON

The Christmas Spirit is upon us, in us, all around us. It will not be denied. It shouts blatantly from commercial advertisements; it sings softly from radio speakers; it laughs joyously under evergreen trees and flashes in colored lights in every town throughout the nation.

It walks reverently into the churches, hastens happily down dark little streets with baskets for the needy, crowds into huge department stores and spends money lavishly.

"A Merry Christmas," it shouts. And echoes and re-echoes shout "A Merry Christmas" in answer as they gradually fade into silence, yet still ring in one's ears.

The Christmas Spirit is everywhere. It crawls through crevices stuffed with rags to keep out the cold in slums and tenement areas; it edges its way through keyholes and padlocks in the exclusive residential sections.

Hard heart, soft heart, indifferent heart—they all succumb to the wiles of a busy-body Christmas Spirit, and, as was even Scrooge in Dickens' immortal "Christmas Carol," are made the better for it.

Lovable, laughable Christmas Spirit. Gay, happy, carefree Christmas Spirit. Spirit that makes smiles where there were no smiles before; Spirit that makes this cold, indifferent world a better place to live in—it is too bad that your life is so short.

It is terrible that after a few short weeks you shall find doors closed against you and cold hearts remaining cold even though you try your best to warm them. It is too bad that the poor will be neglected, that smiles will drop from faces, that envy, greed and jealousy will take your place in hearts where you have reigned for such a short while.

Couldn't you, some way, even by bribery or trickery, make arrangements to stay after the evergreen and colored lights have come down? Couldn't you lease the hearts you are now living in for the rest of the year? Couldn't you make it an airtight lease so that no one could break it and happiness and fellowship would be permanent instead of so fleeting?

Do your best, Christmas Spirit, by fair means or foul, to make this a better world.

And you, who are reading this, won't you also do your best and give the Christmas Spirit a home after the tinsel and gay lights have been packed in their boxes?

A Worm's Eye View . . .



More About War

Measuring worm Ferdý says every other columnist has had his own ten inches worth on this war business, so why shouldn't he?

"The trouble is," he told me in the Collegian office yesterday, "everyone else talks so much that I can't get a word in edgewise. However, since I've found that you learn more by listening than by talking, I've been eavesdropping all over the place."

"What's the general attitude?" I asked.

This Practical World

"People are taking a keen interest in this thing in a sort of reconciled way. Most of them wind up with a resigned shrug and then begin wondering what they can do to help. Here are a few of the philosophical statements I've heard:

"From an individualist: 'Maybe it isn't practical, but it's still hard to keep from thinking about individuals as such, and not as a herd of cattle.'

"A resigned coed: 'Well, wars provide a good opportunity for learning geography.'

"A future draftee, whose brother had already joined the forces: 'Oh, it's okay. We were expecting it; but I hope Mother doesn't take it too hard. She's been through so much already. But then, our family's no exception.'

"A town woman who had traveled abroad: 'I do hope we don't have to bomb Tokyo. It's such a beautiful city.'

"A taxi-driver: 'Well, they've got Guam. We'd better get in there quick before they grab off anything else.'

"A dramatics major: 'The Japanese national anthem is a beautiful thing. It's a shame we have to bomb the people who wrote it.'

"And a practical guy: 'So we're at war. So people are gonna get shot. So why get excited?'"

And Defense

"Do you think this resigned attitude will have a bad effect on people's enthusiasm for defense work?" I asked Ferdý.

"Not from the way defense blanks are piling in at Student Union," he said. "As the Chinaman said when he heard about the first Jap attack, 'Japanese goose overheated.'"

"And, Ferdý, what do you think?" I asked.

Ferdý blinked.

"Wars are out of a measuring worm's line," he said. "I think I'll just relax until the sun comes out."

2,000 Enroll For Defense

(Continued from Page One)

driving, knitting, and skiing techniques.

Faculty and staff members were given their opportunity to participate in the program yesterday as they received blanks on which they could check courses which they are qualified to instruct. These blanks are to be returned to the deans' offices by noon tomorrow.

It is probable that students who failed to turn in their enrollment forms may still have them accepted, provided they bring them to Student Union today or tomorrow morning.

The 50 courses are listed below. The first number shows the number of preferences. If there is a second, it indicates the number of students who offered to assist in teaching each subject:

Air Raid Warning, 10; Airplane Spotting, 25, 1; Aptitude Testing, Classification, 17, 4; Auto Mechanics, 80, 3; Auxiliary Fire Fighting, 4, 1; Auxiliary Police, 8; Blackout Driving, 33, 1; Blackout Precautions, 2; Bomb Protection, 6.

Building Inspection and Repair, 7, 2; Camp Counseling, 13, 15; Choice of Consumer Goods, 5, 2; Club Leadership, 5, 7; Communications, 49, 2; Community Canning, 0, 0; Community and Group Organization, 1, 1; Community Personnel, Inventories, 1.

Community Recreation, 8, 6; Community and School Evacuation, 1; Day Care of Children, 4, 8; Demolition, 9, 3; Drafting, 19, 8; First Aid, 99, 17; Gas Defense, 17, 1; Home Gardening, 7; Home Nursing, 7, 1; Identification Methods, 2; Industrial Camouflage, 19, 1.

Incendiary Bomb Control, 7; Mental Hygiene and Morale, 12, 1; Military Food Selection (men), 23; Motor Vehicle Operation, 37, 18; Nutrition, 7, 2; Occupational Therapy, 5; Office Methods, 24, 3; Overall Mechanics (women), 28; Personnel Work, 41, 4.

Physical Fitness, 7, 3; Pre-Induction Training, 4, 2; Propaganda and Public Opinion, 24, 4; Public Forum Techniques, 2, 2; Publicity Techniques, 13, 5; Red Cross Canteen, 6; Rehabilitation Aids, 0; Sewing for Defense, 2, 2.

Social Case Work, 8, 1; Transportation of Supplies, 13; Waitress Training, 3, 4; Water Supply and Sanitation, 8, 2; Welding, 98, 3.

Average American family spends \$10 a year on soap—and that's where the kids get it in the neck.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Christmas party in the Wesley Foundation at 8 p. m.

Neusbaum Names Technical Crew

(Continued from Page One)

ney Schulman '45, Petruccio's servant; and Robert D. Widder '45, haberdasher.

Organization set-up as announced by Director Frank Neusbaum, assistant professor of dramatics, follow: Joanne M. Palmer '43, assistant director; Aleda Snow '43, prompter; Mrs. Dorothy B. Scott, designer; William H. Cissel '44, assistant to Mrs. Scott; Stanley G. Danowski, graduate student, technical director.

The following are the technical crew heads and their assistants: Fred T. Meyer '43, construction manager; Cadmus G. Goss '44, stage manager; Gordon L. Fiske '44, assistant stage manager; Danowski, paint manager; Mary E. Roberts '43, assistant paint manager; Jean M. Womer '42, costume manager; Nell H. Wortman '44, assistant costume manager.

Hazel E. Gassman '42, properties manager; Albert C. Christoph '43, assistant properties manager; Martin L. Zeigler '44, lights manager; G. Barbara Lear '42, assistant lights manager; Neusbaum, advertising supervisor; Anne J. Lambrecht '43, advertising manager; Bernard M. Weinberg '42, assistant advertising manager.

Fraternities Play Santa To Children

Twenty-six fraternities, in cooperation with the local Kiwanis club, entertained 135 children from needy families of State College at dinners and with parties last night.

After dinner, each fraternity presented a program for the children, featured by the presentation of gifts to the young guests. Members of the Kiwanis furnished transportation to and from the fraternities.

Cooperating houses were Acacia, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Tau Omega, Alpha Chi Sigma, Beta Sigma Rho, Delta Chi, Delta Sigma Phi, Delta Upsilon, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Sigma Delta, Phi Epsilon Pi, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Psi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Chi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Phi Alpha, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Sigma Pi, Theta Kappa Phi, Theta Xi, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Santa Won't Forget

You can take our word for it—old Saint Nick won't forget such good people as you. Somehow we just know that you are going to enjoy a happy Christmas and we are glad. We sincerely hope that everything you desire may come true and that the New Year will be one of real happiness for you.

The Corner Room

The Milkshake Store

CLIFF'S

Meals, Lunches and Complete Fountain Service.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

May Christmas bring Joy, and Peace and Contentment, and may the New Year be one filled with Health and Prosperity . . .

Your associations have made the past year happy; for each of us and we trust these friendships may continue for many years to come.

The MUSIC ROOM

In the Glenland Bldg.