

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Thursday, April 2, 1942

The Wolf Howls Again

"More and more State College fraternities are becoming aware of the need for concerted action in the interests of economy.

"As they do this, they are falling in line with and recognizing the unassailable truth of the facts which were presented to the National Interfraternity Council last November by its committee on policy."

The above statements appeared in a Daily Collegian editorial exactly one year ago when visionary fraternity men and probing journalists first reached an understanding of the problems which now strike at the fraternity set-up. The threat has become an actuality today.

War conditions, the national committee recognized, would be a disorganizing factor for fraternities and united action which was only a desirability in normal times would soon become a necessity.

In addition to being faced with the prospect of a bleak "third semester," Greeks are now confronted with an impressive 15 per cent rise in food prices. It seems as though the wolf is at the door again.

One year ago the suggestion was made that expenses could be decreased in the chapters themselves by cooperative buying of food and other supplies. That was one year ago when the problem was not quite as important as it is today.

Higher prices and less money mean trouble in any man's home and when they affect 47 fraternity houses which are already over-burdened with worries the picture is more than dismal. The outlook will be disastrous unless someone with "get-up-and-go" has enough initiative to accept the advice given by the National Interfraternity Council over a year ago.

In referring to cooperative buying the committee said, "This is already done in some colleges. It can be organized almost anywhere either with all or some fraternities participating. The chief essential is an able purchasing agent, and the savings should be large enough to permit a salary to be paid adequate to secure competency."

Such a gem of wisdom could hardly be ignored by local chapters and we vaguely remember a committee being appointed to investigate the possibilities of such a system in State College. However, we don't remember any actual decisions being made by that committee.

Since most established organizations are afraid of new, untried departures from the conventional it is highly probable that the investigating committee died an unobtrusive death from under-work. Still, it must be remembered that cooperative buying is not untried and under the present pressing circumstances fraternities may well revive the proposal.

With over a year to make their survey, consider a workable plan, sound-out individual houses, and prophesy for the future, the committee may be in the happy position of pulling the catering problem out of the financial danger zone.

Meanwhile, the lean figure of the war-time wolf has become more gaunt, his howls stronger, and his advances more determined. Twelve months have elapsed since his appearance was first noticed at the fraternity kitchen door but to date he has not been chased away.

Prices rise and fraternity men grow more scarce. The question is whether anything has been done or can still be done with the cooperative buying plan to help fraternities in the increasingly important problem.

—H. J. Z.

One Man's Meat

When indulgent Ross Lehman gave me the green light on this venture last Spring, I was quick to point out in an early column that my prime purpose would be to inform the reader of what's wrong with everything. I hastily added that space and other considerations would not permit me to offer correctives. Prophetically, I pointed out that One Man's Meat would probably end up a riddle, column—without any answers.

Since then, I have continued on the theory that if the inarticulate inhabitants of Hetzel's Shangri-La were kept informed of the yawning crevices and surface scratches in both our allegedly flawless valley and as much of the Cruel World as juts above our limited horizon, they would awaken and take appropriate action.

The dull apathy and putrefying absence of mental activity among the overwhelming majority of students, faculty, and townspeople was due, I boldly assured myself, only to a lack of information. Give them the brown taste, the sulphur odor of our imperfections, and they will avenge the wrongs or at least express an unmistakable protest.

I meandered often from my chosen path, sometimes at the instance of my few critics, that tiny group of articulates whom the stultifying atmosphere has failed to completely stifle. In spite of these wanderings (perhaps because of them?) Penn State is not one whit the less a lethargic mockery than it was a year ago.

This search for the fulcrum needed to make Penn State the forceful lever it could be started four years ago. The American Student Union was on its last legs. The Social Problems club was disintegrating. Froth was slowly turning back into a clip sheet from the vital force Jimmy Dugan had made it. The Old Main Bell was strangling to death. The Collegian was passing through its last year as a crusading paper and becoming a faithful bulletin board.

We have a fine Student Government skeleton. We have every important means of expression, comparatively free from ulterior dominance. We have all the meaningful rights of a democracy. There lacks but one thing: The will to take democratic action.

The flesh and blood of a democracy are absent from our well-built shell. Free expression of opinion and the ability to our opinions into force are the well-springs of democracy. We have the freedom of expression and the structure with which to take action. Where, then, is the expression of opinion and the resulting action?

I have posed a riddle. I have evolved a formula with certain unknowns. When the riddle is answered, when the unknowns are solved for and the formula put to work, then we truly will have found the means "For A Better Penn State."

STANLEY J. POKEMPNER -30-

WSSF Project Shows Profit

The "Wear a Red Carnation" campaign of the World Student Service Fund showed favorable results for the first day, Palmer Sharpless '43, chairman of the WSSF committee announced last night.

Two hours after the carnations went on sale in front of the Corner Room, the last flower was sold. Surprised by the support given to the student war relief campaign by the student body, Sharpless said that he had placed an order for more carnations and that they would be here by 8 o'clock this morning so that the campaign could proceed as planned.

President Hetzel, in a letter to Sharpless, commended the committee upon their "valiant effort to bring the extreme needs of students in other countries to the attention of our campus," and said, "A part of the American tradition has been to be concerned about the relief of suffering peoples throughout the world. Believing as we do in the sacredness of personality, we find this effort to meet human needs in wartime the kind of expression of our religious and patriotic spirit that means much today."

Last year \$287 was given to Student War Relief by the WSSF committee of the Penn State Christian Association.

Quick Henry!

(Continued from Page One)

What banana boats are left are going to be kept as far from submarines as possible. Consequently, maritime insurance rates have become almost prohibitive. Supplies of spices, seasonings, and even coffee are expected to become scarce for the same reason.

The fraternity sweet tooth, which has been aching for more sugar for the past month, will probably have to go on aching for the duration, now that the sugar rationing plan will go into effect.

Local stores do not sell sugar to fraternities. They can't even supply their oldest customers with enough sugar. Fraternity cooks can buy a maximum of approximately 15 to 20 pounds of sugar a week from their wholesalers, when they have it.

Nobody knows how much they can obtain when the rationing



The last meeting of the Penn State Club Dancing Class will be held in the Sandwich Shop at 8:15 p. m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Freshman men editorial staff candidates, sign in, Collegian News Room, 4-6 p. m. Monday through Friday.

Easter Music Will Feature Chapel

The annual Easter Musical Service will be presented in Schwab Auditorium at 3:30 p. m. Sunday. The program will consist of selections by the College Choir of 100 voices, under the direction of Dean Richard W. Grant, department of music, and organ solos by Irene Osborne Grant. John Henry Frizze, chaplain, will conduct the service.

Following are the numbers that the choir will present: "Alleluia! Christ Is Risen" (Kopolyoff); "Hallelujah, Amen" (Handel); "Christ Triumphant" (Yon) with Shirley Ives and Boyd Bell soloists; "None Other Lamb" with Boyd Bell, soloist; and "Unfold, Ye Portals."

French Club Elects

New officers, elected at a recent meeting of Le Cercle Francais in the Grange playroom were: President, Betty Breese '43; Vice-President, Madelaine Noll '44; Secretary-Treasurer, Betty Podell '44; Program, Chairman, Coriarte Deutsch.

Plan is put into practice.

Meat, an item which everybody would expect to remain plentiful, is becoming hard to get. Even domestic supplies are rapidly diminishing. And, of course, meat prices are climbing proportionately. One explanation for the shortage is the heavy buying of meat supplies by the army for its numerous camps throughout the country.

And this, they say, is only the beginning.

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KEELER'S

In the Cathaum Bldg.

First Semester Averages

Table with 2 columns: Group averages for the first semester as released by the Registrar, and Average. Lists various fraternities and their average scores.