

Music Groups Can Do It

Mendelssohn's oratoria "Elijah," executed brilliantly in Schwab Auditorium Wednesday evening, proves that campus musical groups can adequately re-create great music.

The chapel choir under the sensitive direction of Mrs. Willa Taylor sang the sweeping and subdued choruses with the emotion and exuberance demanded of this inspiring work.

Baritone Chester Watson as the prophet carried his role with vocal and dramatic intensity. Soprano Barbara Troxell, in excellent voice, was ably assisted by contralto Martha Albert and tenor Boyd Bell. Bouquets also go to organist George Ceiga who made the Israelites' "fire and water" spring from the keyboard.

Months of preparation and polishing were required for Wednesday's production, but judging from the applause and after-concert comments, the audience was moved by the glorious music and performance. Local talent turned "Elijah" into the finest musical event of the college year.

A full house was very gratifying—after the scanty attendance of several earlier musical events. Publicity was well handled. The oratorio's scope, the number of participants, and gratuitous admission packed the auditorium.

This step in the right direction should be carried forward. Critique-sponsored jazz concert which pitted dixieland against bebop was a great treat in rhythms and harmonies that even influenced "long hairs." Blue Band concerts (another slated for Sunday) and Mr. Ceiga's Thursday organ recitals deserve wide receptions.

In the local symphonic and recital fields, the productions have not been designed to attract larger audiences. The annual symphony several Sundays back was devoted to short, familiar pieces, although a new work was included in the bill of fare.

Full-bodied symphonies and concertos have been offered in past years and should be given again for the more populated campus. This undertaking involves renting scores and rehearsing but the finished item is sure to please performers and public.

Music department recitals (one scheduled for 117 Carnegie, 8:15 p.m. Monday) permit individual performers to display their talents and develop self-confidence. Although the department subordinates virtuosity to music education and instrument familiarity, these recitals of original and well-known works should be presented at least once a semester in Schwab for a large assembly.

Ensembles like the Philadelphia String Quartet here on May 1 under Common Sense Club auspices should be brought on campus more frequently.

Professional artistry, however, is limited mainly to the Artists' course. The committee has booked three outstanding masters for one-night stands next year—Christopher Lynch, Helen Traubel, and Vladimir Horowitz.

Admission prices are regulated by the high fees asked by these superior performers plus the Federal luxury tax. No standing room or stage chairs, and the recent subtraction of seats restrict total seating capacity to 1232. Sellout attendance for the three numbers, however, is certain.

On a campus of 8,000 students and 1200 faculty members, immortal and contemporary music of broad scope and symphonic texture should be encouraged by bringing in more outside performers and by introducing more local talent.

—Bennett Lear Fairorth

Edit Briefs

• An Australian named Bill Johnson won the world's ax swinging championship by chopping through a 15-inch hardwood log in two minutes 47 seconds. If he can capitalize on his title, he should be in the chips.

• After years of admitted thievery of jokes and cartoons, an alleged campus comic mag has branched into another field of banditry—purloining advertising stunts. It didn't even bother getting the consent of the "endorsers."

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Successor to the Free Lance est 1877.

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings during the College year by the staff of the Daily Collegian of the Pennsylvania State College. Entered as second class matter July 5, 1934, at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879 \$2.50 a semester \$4.25 the school year

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Editorials and features in The Daily Collegian reflect the opinions of the writer. They make no claim to represent student or College opinion. All unsigned editorials are by the editor.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 24
X-GI CLUB, 409 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.

At the Movies
CATHAUM—Duel in the Sun.
STATE—B.F.'s Daughter.
NITTANY—Border Feud.

College Hospital
Discharged Friday: Charles Griswold, John Schmerin, Betty Shrum.

Placement
Powdrell & Alexander, Inc., of Danielson, Conn., May 25, graduating students for sales and manufacturing departments.
New Holland Machine Company, May 25, men interested in training course for advertising department. Women with secretarial skills.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"It's Junior's college graduation announcement—Shall we send him a personal gift—or something his whole family can use?"

GRIN AND BEAR IT

Penn State Engineer Features Physics Article

The May issue of the Penn State Engineer, now available at Student Union, Corner Room, and Rea & Derick's, features an article by Gene Martin on "Concepts of Modern Physics."

Martin thus culminates a continuous year of successful technical writing.

Application of engineering practices to agriculture is discussed by Merton McLean. Dr. Haskell B. Curry, professor of mathematics, explains the application of symbolic logic to engineering problems. Dr. Curry has been invited to read a thirty-minute paper on Symbolic Logic before the 10th International Congress of Philosophy at Amsterdam, Holland, this summer.

Hat Societies Council

William Bonsall was recently elected president of the Hat Societies Council. Therrell Ruhman was elected vice-president and Marilyn Guillet, secretary.

Band Concert

The Penn State Blue Band concert will be held on the library steps at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. In case of rain it will be held in Schwab Auditorium.

Editor's Mailcall

Letters to The Editor's Mail Call should be limited to 150 words so that all contributors may be given space. The editor reserves the right to print in part all letters over that limit. Letters must be signed and the address requested.

Hard to Swallow

TO THE EDITOR: This morning as I was eating my toast and drinking my coffee, I read the editorial in the Collegian entitled "Biting the Hand." I find it difficult to describe the feeling that came over me as I read the statements made by the wife of a "prominent businessman."

There seems to be a great deal of discussion going on concerning that statement that the Windcrest wives are a bunch of "charity cases supported by the government." A great many of us around here feel that the Windcrest wives have been dealt a "low blow." Personally, I can't see how any woman who would make such a statement can command the respect of any decent, respectable man, woman, or child.

My primary purpose in writing this letter, however, concerns another remark made by that same woman, in which she stated that the G.I.'s were ruining the town. Now, everyone knows that such a statement is just so much nonsense; some of us spent more years in the service than we care to talk about and, almost without exception, we came back to try our hand at improving things,

rather than practice what we learned about ruination and destruction.

Many of us are of the opinion that if all the people who attend Penn State, as well as all the others that do not call this place their home town, were to suddenly quit the place the town of State College would fold up in nothing flat, and the permanent residents would either have to get out or starve to death. Ruining the town indeed!

—Jim McLaughlin.

Problems and Mr. Gara

TO THE EDITOR: As we roamed through Nordhausen, Germany, surveying the thousands of bodies stacked in ditches, charred barracks and scattered over the ground, we couldn't believe that this was merely one of many such concentration camps located in Germany—all products of the Nazi warlords' minds. Yet the following day, an American soldier nonchalantly stated that Hitler was entirely right in what he was doing and that the United States had no business sticking her nose into European affairs.

Today Russia is retracing the Nazi path and another American, Mr. Larry Gara of the College, is broadcasting his encouragement to the gang of conniving Russians who are now leading the Russian populace.

Such Americans are harmless if they keep to themselves and do not insult the intelligence of

Americans who realize that freedom was attained not by running away from problems facing them.

—R. Lutz.
—H. Arble.
—R. Kobylarski.

Grateful Patient

TO THE EDITOR: I, as most who write you, have a gripe to air; but for a change, not against the administration, but against a group of students.

These students are the ones who talk down the College infirmary. I doubt if any of them have ever been in it. I have. It was my first experience with any hospital, but one of the first things I remember was "lunch," a vegetable platter of 6 vegetables. I asked if it was dinner in the middle of the day. In the afternoon and around 8 p.m. they ask you what kind of fruit juice you would like.

The nurses, every one of them, were swell, and came when you rang, day or night. There was one nurse for about five patients. I am pointing this out as from College I was brought home to one of the "big city hospitals," and how I missed the infirmary!

During the day to bathe patients and make beds, there were three student nurses for over 30 patients and at night only one nurse for the same number. Do you wonder I am peeved at those who complain about our College infirmary? I know no place is perfect, but I hate to hear something good unjustly criticized.

—Polly Goodwin.

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