

Fred's Day

This is a day for "Fred." In his 27 years on campus, Leo Houck called everybody "Fred," and everybody reciprocated. Oldtimers, boxers, coaches, students—all were "Fred" to Leo, and Leo was "Fred" to them.

WHEN OLDTIMERS SPEAK of "Fred", they mention Houck as the "uncrowned champion," for Houck's ring exploits added many thrilling chapters to boxing history. They remember that he fought over 200 bouts in a career stretching from 1902 to 1923. They marvel that he fought in every weight division although he never weighed more than 176 during his fighting days. They reminisce about his fights with 12 different world champions, including Gunboat Smith, Harry Greb, Battling Levinski and Gene Tunney. But despite all his successes—he won 85 per cent of his fights, they say—he never got a shot at the middleweight title when in his prime. That's why the oldtimers dub Houck the "uncrowned champion."

When coaches speak of "Fred," they remember that two of his Nittany proteges later achieved success in the ring, Middleweight Billy Soose and Heavyweight Steve Hamas. They say that "Fred's" formula for success in the ring was perhaps oversimplified, but it seemed to work. "Keep your left working in his face," "Fred" would advise, "and belt him with your right when you get a chance." These coaches also cite "Fred" as turning out seven team champs and 48 individual titlists at Penn State.

When "Fred's" boxing students speak of him, they say there was nothing showy about his classroom manner. Watching his boxers from the ring apron, he was taciturn, soft-spoken, unobtrusive. Now and then he'd step into the ring to demonstrate a point. Handball in Recreation Hall kept him trim at the age of 60, but he pulled on a glove for the last time during Steve Hamas' collegiate career. He had no wish to play fast and loose with his expensive gold dentures, his boxers say.

WHEN STUDENTS SPEAK of "Fred," they remember he was a connoisseur of two-dollar words. They know that his polysyllabic admonitions (he liked to look up high-brow words and use them for a laugh) have become a Penn State legend. They recall that as recently as last summer he ruled the hot stove league at Graham's candy store, squelching argumentative and boisterous students with a soft warning: "Now, don't get obstreperous."

And when students talk about "Fred," they also recall that they—or their predecessors as Men on the Mail—dubbed Leo Houck "the good Doctor," helping unconsciously to mold Houck into a Nittany tradition.

When students speak of "Fred," they fancy him inside the boxing ring while in his fighting prime. They scan his record and are probably most impressed by the two no-decision battles with Gene Tunney. But not Houck. "Those bouts," he'd whisper, "were extraordinarily pediculous."

When students in Rec Hall speak of "Fred," they may wonder what he'd say about all this—the "Leo Houck Night" and the campaign to raise \$5,000. As someone has noted, "Fred" would probably say proudly: "It's a philanthropic benevolence."

Penn State has an enrollment of nearly 11,000. At Wisconsin students number close to 21,000. Penn State has an athletic arena which seats 4600. The Wisconsin field house seats 25,000. Everybody at Wisconsin can be admitted to athletic events!

The Daily Collegian

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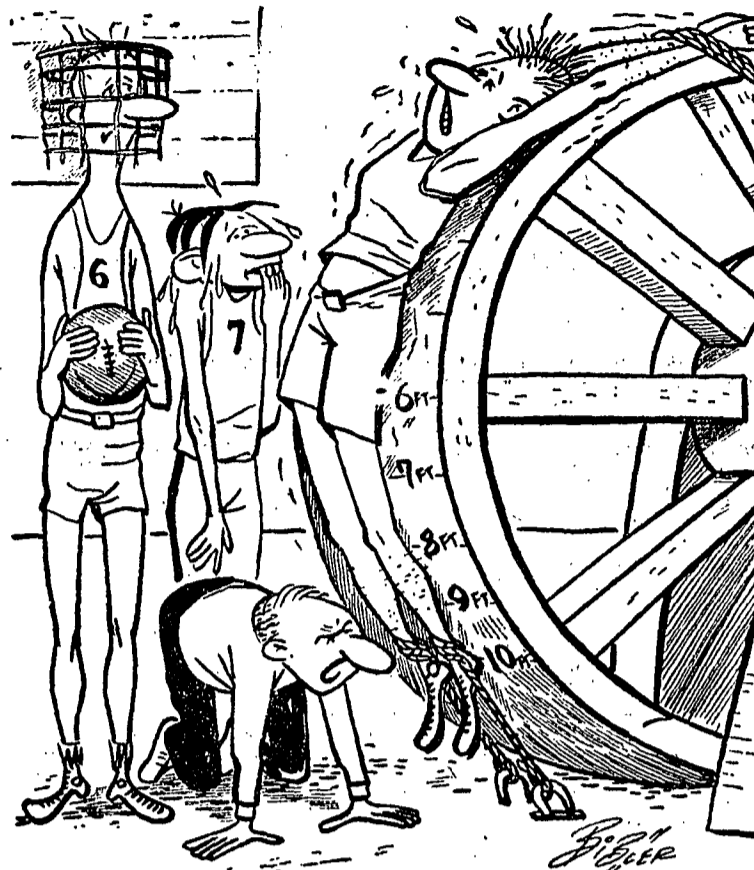
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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

by Bibler



"... 9 feet 11 inches. Is that enough, Elmer?"

On Houckism

From A Friend

RANDY GRAHAM—"I have known Leo for 27 years and during that time he had become my very best friend. Every night during that time he used to come into the store and bring with him some of the tales for which he is so well noted. He's the first guy alumni, returning to the College, inquire about. It never fails, they all want to know how 'Fred' is."

From A Doctor

DR. A. H. GRIESS—"For the past ten years I was highly honored to have been associated with Leo and his boxing teams. He has friends everywhere, he commands their respect and admiration. Unquestionably he is the dean of collegiate boxing coaches. His fatherly guidance has launched many boys on their way to successful careers in all walks of life. We will sorely miss his friendly company and advice."

From A Student

BOB HICKS—"I've known Leo since I went to high school; he only lives eight blocks from where I do. He has always been one of the most respected men at Lancaster as well as Penn State. His friends are too numerous to be counted. I'm very happy to be lucky enough to know him and to have absorbed some of his wisdom."

From A Boxer

BOB KELLER—"If it hadn't been for Leo I would never have received the campus prominence that I have achieved. His advice and teaching have been instrumental in all my thinking and actions since I have enrolled at State. He saw something in a kid that had nothing and within a year, after many hours of work, he changed my complete outlook. I'll trace all my college memoirs back to Leo."

From A Sportswriter

GEORGE VADASZ—"During the past two boxing seasons I had to contact Leo daily to help spread his gospel to the outside world. Never have I met a greater coach, gentleman or sportsman, never has one man who has represented Penn State risen to greater heights and received more laurels than Leo. Few will ever achieve as great a following of friends as he did."

From A Coach

CHARLIE SPEIDEL—"Leo has been missed these past months, not only by his Recreation Hall compatriots whom he has consistently beaten in handball or battered with his 'two-dollar' words, but by his friends of students, faculty and townspeople who dubbed him as ruler of the hot stove league at Graham's. His homespun philosophy of sly humor has captivated everyone. The soft-spoken gent who worked his boxers next to my wrestling mats for many years has my deepest admiration, both as a coach and friend."

From An Administrator

WALTER HOSTERMAN—"Leo is a friend to both young and old. He'll treat you with respect whether you are a youngster or an old timer. But what I'll remember him most for is his diligence in answering mail. During the war years he religiously wrote to many home-sick Penn Staters and gave them the necessary 'lift' which was needed at the time. As a fellow worker he was 'TOPS!'"

Safety Valve...

Is This The Best?

TO THE EDITOR: I just read the article in the Daily Collegian on the investigation by All-College Cabinet of the selection of the Campus Personalities. Not only am I of the opinion that the selection was a poor one but I am also of the opinion that the La Vie staff has fallen down in another area—this being the choice of La Vie Belles.

What I'd like to know is just what is La Vie's definition of "beauty" when they saw it.

In some of the past years, photographs of the prospective belles were displayed to the student body and from these, after various opinions were polled, the final selection was made—and I might add the final selection proved the La Vie staff knew beauty when they saw it. The selection this year is a downright shame. If these girls are the best of Penn State beauty, I'd hate to see the worst that State has to offer

• Name Withheld

Safety Valve...

La Vie Answers

TO THE EDITOR: You have heard the Cabinet's side, now how about La Vie's.

My impression of the conduct of this investigation leaves me with the same feeling I would get if I read about our national Congress investigating Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer for leftist leanings.

Let's talk about Harry Kondourajian, who admitted to me that he was unprepared to make a statement such as he made. He told me someone told him to bring it up the same afternoon of the night of Cabinet meeting. I think that is a wonderful way for our governing body to go about things. What I mean is, 'bring something up, boy; we'll put your picture in Collegian whether you know anything about it or not.' Mr. Kondourajian later made a motion that Cabinet should have the power of selections concerning personalities. This motion was defeated unaminously. In other words Kondourajian voted against his own proposal.

Now about the Collegian article which I believe was written 'a la Keller attacks Cabinet'...

1. Personality selections have never been announced in the past until the day the yearbook was distributed... Now in view of that, I ask, under what obligation was, or is, the 1950 senior board to announce this year's selections? None, I say.

2. May 14 is not the deadline as stated in the Collegian, but January 31 is. May 14 is the day distribution of LaVies usually begins.

3. Why doesn't Collegian say something about the underground methods used by the people interested in the obtaining the names on the personality list? I told Cabinet the whole story Thursday night and I see no reason why the whole student body shouldn't know about it.

4. Our selections were chosen under the rules set forth by the constitution of LaVie Incorporated. I feel that we have fulfilled the obligation to the student body of Penn State under those rules.

Cabinet doesn't tell Elmer Gross who to use in his starting line-up. Cabinet doesn't say whether some athletic managerships should be legacies, or whether they should be earned. Cabinet doesn't tell Players what person can portray Romeo best on the stage. Why should Cabinet attempt to tell LaVie who to include in the yearbook?

Let's keep politics out of LaVie. Let's keep LaVie the good publication it has always been. Since this whole question has been taken up by the LaVie Board of Directors, and will be discussed and probably changed at the next meeting, why not let LaVie take care of its own problems? The LaVie Board of Directors included three members of All-College Cabinet, two members of the LaVie staff, and six faculty and administration members. Sounds like a capable enough list, doesn't it?

—Ray Saul
Editor of LaVie

Gazette...

Sunday, January 15

ALPHA RHO OMEGA, Home Economics Living Center, Home Economics Building, 7 p.m.

SENIOR BOARD Edit, Daily Collegian, 8 C.H., 1:15 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Further information concerning interviews and job placements can be obtained in 113 Old Main.

National Lead Company, Jan. 20. February and June grads at PhD, M.S., and B.S. levels in Chem, ChemE, and Metallurgy interested in research in field of titanium chemistry. High scholastic standing is essential.

The General Electric Atomic Energy Plant at Hanford, Wash., Jan. 18, 19. February and June grads in Chem and ChemE for development work. Applicants must have 1.8 or better average.

Dupont Co., Jan. 18, 19, 20. February and June PhD, candidates in Chem, ChemE, ME, Bact, BioChem, and Phys.

The General Electric Co., Jan. 16. February grads with accounting backgrounds, for their business training program. Applicants must have 2.0 or better average and be between 21 and 26 years of age.

North American Insurance Co., Jan. 19. February grads in AL, CF, ME, EE, and CE.

McMillen Feed Mills, Jan. 17, 18. February and June grads in Ag courses or any men with farm backgrounds, for sales positions.

June grads in IE who are interested in general industrial engineering work with The Armstrong Cork Co. should report to 112 Old Main at once to fill out preliminary applications.

June grads in ME and IE who are interested in sales engineering positions with The Industrial Insulation Division of the Armstrong Cork Co. should report to 112 Old Main at once to fill out preliminary applications.

The Fidelity Mutual Co., Harrisburg Agency, Jan. 13. February grads for careers as life agents in counties around Harrisburg. Interviews can be arranged for other dates if necessary.

Colgate Palmolive-Pest Co., Jan. 20. February and June B.S. and M.S. candidates in Chem. Applicants must have 1.8 or better average.