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Why College?

When a freshman begins his college career, he often asks himself what it's all about, why he came to college, and what he hopes to get out of college. This tussling with one's soul on the question of "Why college?" is a disease not unique with freshmen. Upperclassmen are just as susceptible, and many times will go through periods during which they are uncertain what the meaning of it all is.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE COME to college for different reasons. And nearly everybody gets several different things out of college experience.

On of these is that curious and rather nebulous experience called "college life." Every student, to some extent, participates in that form of existence which is peculiar to the college campus. But although a few young people enter college chiefly for this experience, college life itself is not the principal aim.

OTHERS COME TO LOSE themselves in the social whirl. Still others, possessing unusual physical abilities, are attracted by the gridiron, the basketball court or the squared circle. For a good many—very likely for the majority of students—preparation for a job or profession is a major reason for college.

But the underlying purpose of college—the purpose that pervades all studies, all activities, all collegiate experiences—is learning.

Learning occurs in various forms—often it is not easily recognizable. Acquisition of knowledge through courses of study is the most obvious form, and it certainly is one of the most important. Unfortunately, this aspect of college experience is allowed to disintegrate because of lagging interest.

THE STUDENT—AT LEAST the alert one—learns something from all his experiences. Thrown in with people from different groups and backgrounds, he learns to appreciate both differences and similarities in people. His experience is expanded and rounded out by participation in new activities, and with this his understanding of people and the world grows. He even learns a thing or two about the opposite sex.

There are two basic and quite simple rules for learning. One is to observe closely what goes on around you. The other is to ask why things occur, and to make sure you find the answer or something leading to the answer.

Penn State freshmen interested in learning about "life as she is lived" might do well to keep these two rules in mind in all their college experiences.

Minors Beware

Nearly everybody drinks in a college town. Good or bad it seems to be part of the carefully cultivated sophistication.

THE PROBLEM in State College taprooms, however, is how to tell minors from legal drinkers without a scorecard. Few bartenders have the patience or inclination to check every person's identification, especially in a Saturday night rush.

Passing laws only makes it worse because it then becomes a hobby to thwart the law officers. Enforcement officials didn't care so much a few years ago when most students were veterans of World War II and old enough to guzzle with appropriate protection from the law.

This year there seems to be a general crack-down. Bars were ordered out of fraternity houses by the College administration late last semester, effective earlier this month. Now Police Chief John R. Juba has issued a statement warning violators that State College ordinance 333 will be enforced to the limit.

TWO OFFENSES are involved, the chief says. One is for misrepresenting the minor's age and the other for entering a barroom to consume alcoholic beverages. Both carry a fine of \$100 or 30 days in jail.

"The police will spare no violators," Chief Juba said, noting that three minors have already been fined \$25 plus costs under Ordinance 333. What the "under 21" crowds often fail to consider when they try to get away with something is the spot in which they place bar owners. The law also provides a \$100 fine or 30 days in lockup for any adult who supplies a minor with alcoholic beverages.

WHETHER PEOPLE ought to drink or not does not concern the writer here. Despite all restrictions, some minors will drink and others won't, and few of those who won't will be deterred by editorialists.

It might be wise for the younger set to note the increased interest this year in drinking. If they won't consider the position of the harried barmen, they surely will appreciate warning of a \$25 to \$100 jolt to an already overtaxed pocketbook.

—Herbert Stein

Gripes Wanted

Most college students, under pressure of classes and feverish campus activities, like to let off steam once in a while. One of the major outlets for such steam is the Safety Valve column of Collegian, which soon will make its appearance again on this page.

Letters to the editor—they should be brief and in good taste—always will be welcome, and Collegian will publish as many as possible. With lively student interest, Safety Valve will make your morning newspaper more entertaining and will offer a chance to express your views.

Low Cost Books

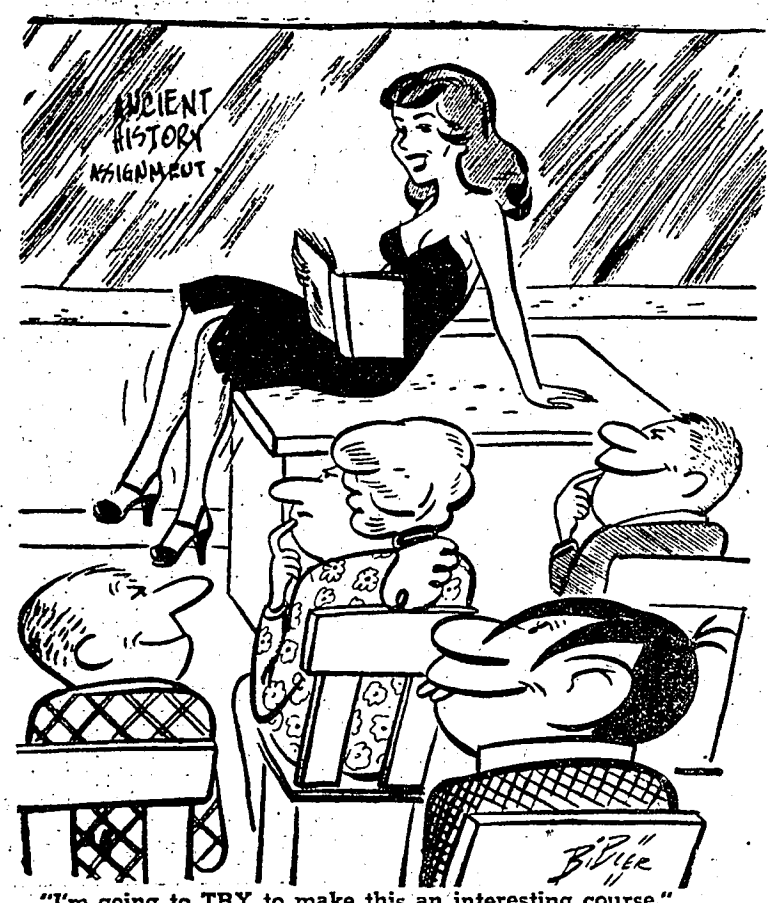
In recent weeks President Truman has taken steps to combat rising costs of living. Here at Penn State we have a business combination which has been combating some of the high costs of higher education for several years.

THE BOOK EXCHANGE (BX), situated in the Temporary Union Building (TUB), is that combination. Employing student workers, it offers various classroom and study materials and books at below-average prices.

This agency is prepared to carry out its part of the program—providing equipment you need and tabulating refunds which patrons will receive later in the year. The student's part in the program is, simply, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the BX.

The BX exists to serve you. Give it a chance by making your purchases there.

—John Ashbrook



"I'm going to TRY to make this an interesting course."

Pro and Con

By STAN DEGLER

One thousand or so freshman men got an unfortunate first impression of their maybe-to-be-alma mater when they tried to get room keys Sunday afternoon.

THIS UPPERCLASSMAN should have known better than to come on Sunday, but the Frosh couldn't help themselves. For hours they stood, sweated, shovled, and groaned their way through a block-long line, while parents waited impatiently in cars or fouled up the line. Many looked forward to 200 mile trips after dark.

This writer needed almost four hours to reach the head of the line. At that rate, 4000 man-hours were wasted by the approximately 1000 men scheduled to arrive that day. Imagine, 4000 hours that could have been spent looking the campus over, saying goodbye to parents, girl friends, big and little sisters.

Maybe this was a baptism by fire in preparation for many other lines new students will struggle through this week. Maybe the administration was afraid that freshmen wouldn't appreciate lush new quarters, if they weren't dead tired the first night. Or maybe it was just bad planning.

WHATEVER THE REASON, freshmen and their parents got a bad first impression of the College. And personally we can't think of any excuse for the melee. A suitable place in a larger, completely completed building such as Recreation Hall or White Hall with a staff large enough to keep lines moving would have prevented much irritation and delay.

Some poor souls even had to struggle through twice because they had to be assigned to temporary quarters until their rooms are finished. We sympathize with these especially and hope that they will find the rest of their week better organized.

Personally we'll take a rain check on any more lines like that. We're thinking of providing sandwich service for future waiting-line sufferers.

• President Truman has been forced to apologize to the Marine corps for his "slur" against them. In view of the terrific pressure brought to bear by the Marines against their boss—the President is commander in chief of all armed forces—one might begin to wonder whether Harry wasn't right when he originally charged the corps had a propaganda machine as good as Joe Stalin's.

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