

# Ambandos to Read 'A Christmas Carol'

By MIMI UNGAR

Someone once said that the child who has been permitted to grow up without being read Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" should bring a suit of equity against his parents.

This month that story, one of the most popular of all Christmas lore, will be read aloud far and wide for the 190th year. And the College will not be an exception to this pattern that has come

down through the years. Under the sponsorship of the Speech department, James Ambandos, writer-director at the College Motion Picture Studio, will read the memorable classic at 7 p.m. Thursday in 121 Sparks.

Charles A. Dickens wrote the 'Carol' within a space of two months while preoccupied with the publication of Martin Chuzzlewit. The idea for the story, with the well-remembered Scrooge and Tiny Tim, came to Dickens while at a great public meeting in Manchester. He developed the story while walking the back streets of London, 18 or 20 miles a night.

Called a National Benefit The story is about 30,000 words in length, five to six times longer than the ordinary short story. That the book was a success from the start is exemplified in the fact that on the first day of sales 6000 copies were sold. It is said that this success brought as much delight to the author for having written it as the purchaser had in reading it.

Thackeray, a rival of Dickens, called the narrative a national benefit. The effects were widespread. A Scotch philosopher who did not keep Christmas sent out for a turkey and asked two friends to dinner. Robert Louis Stevenson said, "I feel so good after it, I would do anything—yes, and I shall do everything to make the world a little better." Other comments on the classic include: "Dickens' compassion for humanity was poured into words that stung and exalted." "The 'Carol' makes everyone want to make the world a little better—Dickens made Christmas a universal holiday without derogating from its sound character. What an achievement!"

Queen Victoria was so impressed by the story that when Thackeray died, she purchased the signed copy Dickens had given to Thackeray.

Read Five Years Ago Mrs. Harriet Nesbitt, assistant professor of speech at the College, has said, "This classic is enjoyed in the fullest measure only when read aloud. As long as Dickens lived, people gathered traditionally in audiences of thousands to hear him read his 'Carol' during the Christmas season."

Mrs. Nesbitt recalls with pride the number of persons Ambandos

# Food Plan Presented To Council

A plan whereby student suggestions for meals in dorms would be studied by the all-College dining hall committee was presented last night to the Nittany Council by La Rue Stelene.

Stelene, the council's representative to the committee, said students could turn in ideas for meals to their dorm president. Suggestions will be brought before the committee in the hope of trying to provide the students with a more acceptable menu.

Nittany Council president Thomas Dennis called attention to an error in posters advertising the "Splinterville Review." The "Review" will be held at 8 tonight in the TUB, rather than Thursday night, as the posters announced.

A reminder that the Blue Key hat society judging of dorm decorations would be conducted Wednesday night was made.

A bluebook file is now available from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday in the file room of Dorm 20. Complete details as to rules governing the use of the file are not yet known.

It was found that approximately 130 men expect to leave the Nittany area next semester. This poll was conducted in connection with the Dean of Men's office.

Because a quorum was not present, the Council was not able to vote on the proposed amendment to the AIM constitution establishing the AIM Judicial Board of Review. The council's vote would have had no bearing on the proposal anyway, since the required three of the four AIM councils have already voted in favor of the idea.

## Teachers' Exam

Application forms for the national teacher's examination, to be held Feb. 14, are available in 8 Burrowes. The applications must be filed before Jan. 16.

thrilled five years ago with his vivid characterizations. When Ambandos first read the story he was a student in an oral interpretation class.

Ambandos will read for one hour. The reading will be followed by the All-College sing which begins at 8 p.m.

Just as the child deserves the chance to hear the story, so do all, for as Mrs. Nesbitt puts it, "Millions would hardly consider Christmas to be Christmas without hearing Scrooge growl, 'Christmas!! Humbug!!!' and Tiny Tim echo, 'God Bless us every one!'"

# Today's Nickel Isn't Worth Plug Nickel

By MYRON FEINSILBER

Used to buy an ice-cream cone, a sandwich, a piece of pie, a ride on a trolley, bus, or subway, but the nickel, America's five-cent piece, seems doomed to become as obsolete as the buffalo one of its models pays tribute to, and as historic as Jefferson, honored by the newer style nickels.

Latest casualty in Pennsylvania in the battle for the preservation of the value of the nickel is the five-cent pay station telephone call. As of Dec. 7, the slot takes two nickles or what side show barkers were once fond of calling "one thin dime" (until the price of even the sideshow was increased).

Way back when a nickel would buy a Sunday edition of "The New York Times," complete with rotogravure section, the nickel, nick-named the "jitney," was a coin of distinction. But it wasn't long until Thomas Riley Marshall was making his famed appeal for a "good five-cent cigar." (Cigars can still be purchased for five cents but, as any cigar smoker will tell you, they're not "good.")

Panhandlers, consumers, and economists were bemoaning the disappearance of the nickel's purchasing power even before the second World War. And, even though a cup of coffee and a bottle of soda pop can still be purchased in some places, the moaning and disappearances continue.

Even the wooden nickel, the

thing you're not supposed to take, is worth more than the metallic five-cent piece, providing it's the right kind. Once in America's history wooden nickels were circulated. Coin collectors now provide a ready market for these rare pieces, providing they're not worm-eaten.

The nickel still performs one duty which inflation can hardly take away from it: it's as good as ever for making change.

What this country needs, obviously, is a good five-cent nickel.

## Anderson to Speak

Dr. John M. Anderson, head of the Department of Philosophy, will speak at a philosophy seminar at 4 p.m. today in 129 Sparks. His topic will be "The Free Self: A Metaphysical Study."

## Final Exam Schedule

The Fall semester final exam schedule is published on pages 14 and 15 in today's Daily Collegian.

# Honoraries Hold Formal Initiations

Eta Kappa Nu, electrical engineering honorary; Pi Tau Sigma, mechanical engineering honorary; and Sigma Eta Alpha, hotel honor society, recently initiated new members.

Eta Kappa Nu held its annual formal initiation and banquet Tuesday at the Allencrest Tea Room. Eugene Wettstone, assistant professor of physical education, showed films and discussed the Olympics.

Initiates included Anthony Ferraro, Milton Poulos, Philip Sheridan, Richard Oswald, Paul Brobst, Gervydas Simaitis, Willard Lewis, Harold Wells, Robert Gill, George Romaine, and Richard Denton.

Pi Tau Sigma held its semi-annual banquet and initiation Thursday at the Autoport. Dr. F. R. Matson, professor of ceramics, spoke on "Pottery in Archeology."

Paul Bickel, Arthur Jacobowitz, Richard Reich, Ronald Darby, Benjamin Kreider, William Shinkel, John R. Smith, Gerald White, Joseph Williams Jr., Roderick Wiseman Jr., and Thomas Younkens were initiated.

Sigma Eta Alpha initiated 17 members and made Edmund Flynn, president of the Pennsylvania Hotel Association, an honorary member during a banquet at the Eutaw House last week.

Initiates are Carl Bovard, Richard Erb, Anthony Konstant, Reuben Moose, Charles Pittetti, Walter Redel, John Schiller, Alfred Strickler, Ronald Thorpe, James Brunggaard, Guy Gerhart, Thomas Long, Frank Nikischer, Thomas Quigley, Robert Scherer, Gustave Wescott, and William Shifflett.

# Joint Plan Set For Engineers

A joint five-year engineering program is being established by Penn State and Gettysburg College.

Under the plan, students will enroll for a three-year liberal and scientific program at Gettysburg and take the final two years in engineering at Penn State. The student would then qualify for a B.S. degree from Penn State and a B.A. degree from Gettysburg. This program will shorten the course from six years or more to five years.

Similar programs have been established by Penn State with Westminster College and Lycoming College.

## Phi Kappa Sig Pledges Work at County Home

The pledge class of Phi Kappa Sigma worked at the Centre County Home for the Indigent in Bellefonte in a voluntary group project last week.

The twenty pledges of the fraternity redecorated the home's recreation room and cleaned the kitchen, laundry, and elevators. The Rev. A. G. Herr, supervisor of the county home, helped in organizing the work for the volunteers.

## Thespians Pick 'Roberta'

Thespians Sunday night chose Jerome Kern's "Roberta" for its April production, according to Richard Brugger, president.

Songs in the musical comedy include "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "Yesterdays." Tryouts will be held in February.

## Veterinarian to Speak

Dr. Hoffman D.V.M., will speak to the Fraternity Club at 7 tonight at Alpha Gamma Rho.

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