

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings inclusive during the College year by the staff of The Daily Collegian of The Pennsylvania State College.

Entered as second-class matter July 6, 1934, at the State College, Pa., Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

Collegian editorials represent the viewpoint of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the newspaper. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

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Oratorical Contest Is Good Legion Plan

Though we find ourselves in disagreement with the American Legion on a number of points, it is proper to give them credit for at least one phase of their work—their sponsorship of the American Legion State Final Contest in Oratory. This year, the high school oratorical contest is being held under the joint sponsorship of the Legion and Penn State.

The subject to be used in the speeches this year must be on some phase of the United States Constitution which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to the government. The significance of the speech topic is clear.

The contests, which will be held in Schwab Auditorium Monday, are a part of the National High School Oratorical Contest of the American Legion which has been held since 1938 and has over 300,000 participants each year. The winner of the final contest receives a \$4000 scholarship, and other finalists receive substantial awards.

The winner of the state finals will receive a four-year college scholarship from Governor John S. Fine. This scholarship may be used at Penn State, Pitt, Penn, or Temple. A trophy will also be presented to the winner at the Department of Pennsylvania Legion Convention. Regional finalists will be presented with medals by President Milton S. Eisenhower, who will preside at the event.

The contest will present a good opportunity for students interested in citizenship, public affairs, and public speaking to observe and analyze the abilities of today's high school students. Those participating in the contest will give two talks—one a prepared oration and another, an extempore address. What high school students have to say on the important topic of a citizen's duties and obligations to his government should prove most interesting.

It is activities such as these which teach young people how to think—something which is so often lacking in many educational institutions. The winner of the four-year scholarship will have proved himself worthy of the prize.

In bringing such a contest to the campus, the College, through its joint sponsorship, has once again shown its leadership in training the American youth of today to think—a definite necessity in times such as these.

"Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used 'till they are much seasoned." —Holmes

"All I know is just what I read in the papers." —Will Rogers

Safety Valve— More on 'Lute Song'

TO THE EDITOR: About the only thing missing from Mr. (or Miss) N. Fitzgerald Craige's interesting letter in Wednesday's Collegian was a credit line for Mr. Roget's handy treatise for diseased (or tired) vocabularies.

Just for the record I wish to quote from the program note prepared by men who wrote the English version: "Lute Song is the most important play ever written for the Chinese theater. It is a classic of the Chinese stage, exactly as Hamlet is a classic on our stage. The first presentation of this story was in 1040. The version (presented by Players) . . . is an adaptation of a 14th century revision of the play which . . . has enjoyed a continuous stage life in China. We do not visualize a production designed to make the audience laugh at a stilted imitation of Chinese acting. We ask the audience to consider the play on its own merits for the homely wisdom of its dialogue, and the simplicity of its story. . ."

If critic Craige cannot bring himself to consider the play in the way the author intended it to be considered, then he is guilty of verbosity, an inoriginal sin worse than silence.

—Kaye W. Vinson Jr.
Member of the cast of "Lute Song"

Upholds Mathias Reply

TO THE EDITOR: Bravo, Chiz Mathias! The sentiments of your review of "Lute Song" and your reaction to the "Lute letter" are honestly rewarding. Regardless of the unqualified opinions of some, you need not apologize to us students who saw the play.

Plays are played to be enjoyed, and all those so-called cultural critics who try vainly to pick them to pieces are just so many headline-hungry blackbirds. If plays, actors, and directors were perfect, the fun of watching them grow and improve with age and experience would not exist "in a world of human imperfection."

We all can be thankful that Penn State's faculty and students are not perfection hounds and that we can be satisfied with the "mediocre" attempts of our campus activities. We can particularly be thankful that the Safety Valve gives voice to such "dubious premises" from those bitten by the WORM OF DISCONTENT!
—Charles W. Miller

Defends Craige Letter

TO THE EDITOR: I don't know what prompted Mr. Craige's bitter letter about the failure of "Lute Song," but I think it's about time somebody took him seriously, rather than just point out the possible exaggeration of his remarks. I haven't missed a campus play this year and I haven't walked out on any. But, although I don't like to be called one of the stagnant, not silent generation, I'm beginning to wonder. . .
—Daniel T. Grimes

Gazette . . .

Friday, March 20, 1953

WRA SWIMMING-PLUNGE HOURS, 7:30-9 p.m.

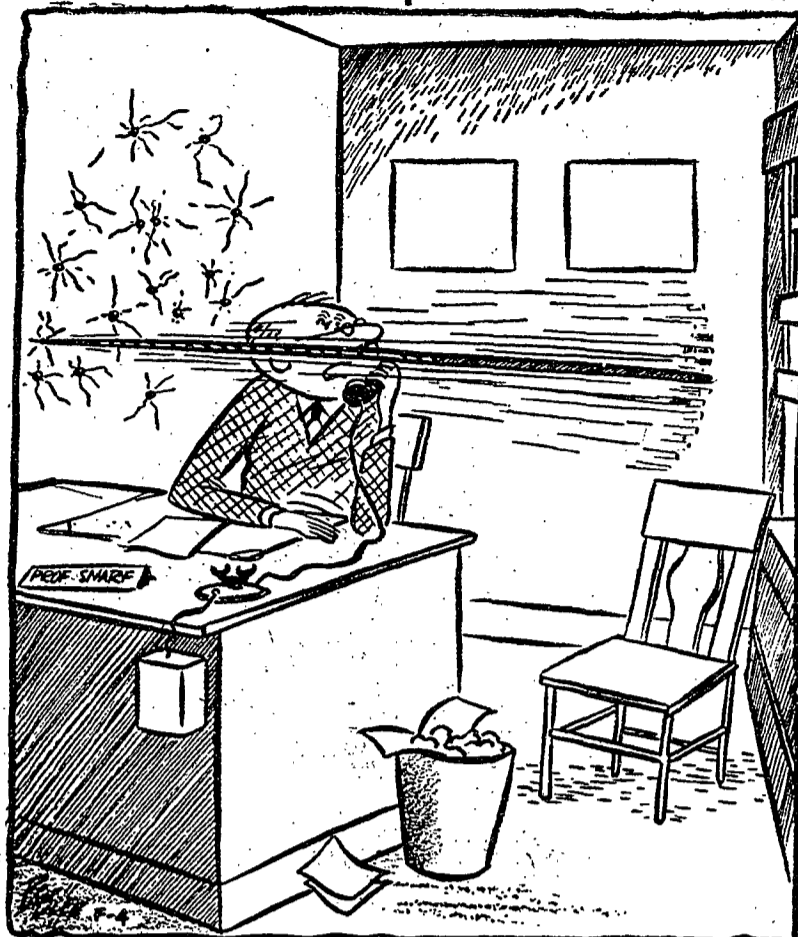
COLLEGE HOSPITAL

H. Edwin Angstadt, Don Bailey, Asher Barmish, William Daly, Vivian Drayer, Roland Ghirelli, Richard Grostefon, James Hoerle, Ruth Israel, Jane Lamont, Bruce Lucas, Dale Matson, Allan McNally, Richard Michaels, Lee Myers, Robert Reinhart, Charles Rife, Howard M. Schwartz, Richard E. Smith, Glenn Snook, Ronald Velosky, George Walker, Lee Wetmore, Beverly Willensky, David Wilson, William Witlin, Douglas Zuker.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Boys wanted to work for meals on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, for the rest of the semester.
Summer resort seeking three or four piece combo.
Camp Skycrest, Pa., will interview boys March 28.
Couple without children wanted for summer employment near State College.
Boy with experience wanted as linotype operator.
Waiters wanted for permanent work in fraternities.

Little Man On Campus By Bibler



"Hello, coach?—Am I gonna have trouble with someone on your javelin team again this spring?"

With Open Mind

By MARSHALL O. DONLEY

When we picked up the Daily Collegian a day or so ago we discovered that the new School of Business was thinking about eliminating certain courses as requirements in its curriculum. We wondered just what students would have thought about this 20 years ago at Penn State, and, in an attempt to find out, we filed back to the issues of the Daily C of 1933.

What we expected to find was that students of the days of the early Rooseveltian days would be terrified at the thought of eliminating any courses, but, as it turned out, we were wrong.

Instead, much to our amazement we saw that in 1933 that very precedent was set. The Daily C (which was printed twice a week then) reported on its pages that not just a few, but eight courses were being dropped from the Mineral Industries and other curricula.

Of course, the reasons were a bit different then. If you'll think back to the mid-depression days, you'll understand why. Students were dropping out of the College like flies because they didn't have enough money to stay here. The College itself was poor, too. Today we have the Chesterman committee to yell about economy. In those days, the governor himself was doing the yelling.

In 1933 Gov. Gifford Pinchot was in office in the Commonwealth. That was the year he

called for a 10 per cent cut in the College appropriations. The Commonwealth was poor, too. That left the College with the huge budget of a little over three and one half millions.

Then we mustn't forget that money was worth more in those days. For example, an advertisement in the Daily C in '33 listed men's slacks (from Stark Bros. & Harper) at \$5.95. These were high quality ones, too. Cigarettes were going for the exorbitant rate of two packs for a quarter.

Movies were high, too. The Nititty was showing Charlie Chaplin in "Easy Street." (They'd be condemned now for being commies, no doubt.) The price "for children and adults" was 15 cents! Hot mama, what's this world coming to? Next they'll want three cents for newspapers.

Some things were the same at the College, however. White bucks, for example, were the coming rage, although they were

(Continued on page five)

Players Present 2 one act plays

Aria da Capo

by Edna St. Vincent Millay

A Phoenix Too Frequent

by Christopher Fry

Center Stage

March 20 and 21

NEWMAN CLUB INFORMAL DANCE AND RAFFLE

Friday, March 20

8:00 p.m.

Phi Mu Delta
(500 S. Allen St.)

Everyone Invited

HONEYMOON DEEP IN WOODED HILLS

Spend life's happiest hours where you'll find other newly married collegians. Have a secluded cottage, all your own at a friendly guest house just for newlyweds. Leisurely life (breakfast until 11:00), vigorous outdoor fun or complete relaxation . . . meals you'll remember always . . . jolly gatherings of young people enjoying life's greatest experience. Mention dates and you will receive our THREE HONEYMOON PLANS and other helpful folders.
THE FARM ON THE HILL
Swiftwater 150, Pa.

Be An Easter Bunny Give Toys



Bring or mail toys to all the youngsters on your Easter gift list.

Plastic, Plush, or Rubber
Animals: Pull Toys

Remember!

Margaret's Shop

129 S. FRAZIER STREET