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The Daily Collegian

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On the Senior Class and Graduation

Penn State has survived another academic year and is about to graduate another senior class. Despite the threats of draft, panty raid and a rampaging Spring Carnival, the College has been able to pull through once more. It will probably do so in the future.

Early next month, the 1953 graduating class, as every college and high school graduating class in the United States, will be told: The future of the world rests with you. This is true. It has been true for some time. So true, in fact, that college educators and graduating classes must be getting tired of hearing the same old story.

In this age of the Silent Generation, college graduates are becoming an ever increasing animal. These ever increasing animals generally go out into the wild world with one of two feelings: a little scared or a little confident. There is not much reason to be scared; there is good reason not to be too confident.

Many college graduates will receive their diplomas next month without having attained much knowledge. This is the sad outgrowth of mass education. Robert Hutchins, Chicago University's former president, has said "we do not know what education could do for us because we have never tried it." Sadly, he is correct.

Because they have turned college into a money-making proposition, many students have missed a real experience in life. Those who have become educated—there are some—have enjoyed an experience they still do not fully realize.

Most of Penn State's graduates will leave the campus with a professed joy. They will be glad to be rid of studying and books—for awhile. And then they will return, gradually perhaps, but eventually, to take a look at the place all over again.

There is nothing more pathetic than one, or a group, of returning alumni. The campus has grown out of proportion, friends are gone, and the college itself is a strange place. Norman Thomas pictured the situation well when he said: "The last audience in America to which I would make a serious address would be a

reunion of college graduates. In such reunions men honoring ancient shrines of learning with one accord breathe one prayer: 'Make me a sophomore just for tonight.' And few prayers are more unfriendly answered."

Many of Penn State's graduating seniors will laugh at the implication that they are reluctant to leave Penn State. They announce enthusiasm in graduation. These are the students who have perhaps missed the education most. These are the students who have lost four years of life.

It is easy to become maudlin about graduation. That is not desirable. It is not easy to admit Penn State means more than books and classes, especially when such a feeling is labeled "Joe College."

Someone has said life is short. Those who will graduate next month have passed a great part of it already. If they have thrown it away here, they may well throw it away in the future.

If our graduating seniors have the future of the world in their hands, let us hope they do something with that future. Let us at least hope they do more with it for their children than our parents did for us.

It Says Here . . .

•After police found a New Haven, Conn., bookmaker in possession of betting slips written in Hindustani, they called in a Yale language professor, who translated the slips, and sent the bookie to jail. We don't know how to say it in Hindustani, but crime doesn't pay in that language either.

•Overheard from a student council president last week: "Now we have 25 cents from each student. Over the summer figure out some way we can spend it."

•The bill to continue the House of Representatives investigation of obscene literature has been pigeonholed by the House rules committee. Froth is safe!

Spring Week's Flaws Deserve Thought

The dissatisfaction voiced by the Senate committee on student affairs in a letter read to All-College Cabinet Thursday night must be considered seriously by the student body as well as student government leaders.

The Senate committee showed consideration in letting its sentiments be known before taking action that would be considered arbitrary by the students.

In their enthusiasm to boost Spring Week and to back their booths, some student organizations digressed to some extent from their academic commitments and put on shows that have been considered risqué.

Although the trend toward forgetting every-

thing except Spring Week activities and toward more lively shows to meet competition did not actually reach extremes, students involved in future Spring Week activities should pause now and give every consideration to the extent to which Spring Week is observed and to the limits to which shows may go.

If Spring Week is to continue, it will be better for the students themselves to set up their own system of checks and regulations before less responsible and unthinking students carry Spring Week to the point where the administration will feel obliged to stop the activities for the good of the College.

—Dick Rau

Interpreting the News

By J. M. Roberts Jr.
Associated Press News Analyst

Choosing a time when European enthusiasm for a top-level peace conference had been renewed by hope of agreement among the Western Big Three at President Eisenhower's Bermuda conference, Secretary Dulles has explained once again why the United States does not share that enthusiasm.

What's the use of expecting important results on broad general issues when the Communist bloc continues to promote aggression in Asia and refuses freedom for Austria, he asks.

Dulles was talking again about the three points he and President Eisenhower have listed repeatedly as places where Russia could demonstrate the sincerity of her

peace talk. They sometimes include Germany, though the broad issues there are more subject to discussion at general levels. They involve the interests of every country in Europe and some of the issues involve the whole world.

In Indochina and Korea, however, all that's needed for peace is for Russia to say: "Peace." And in Austria a treaty has been all but negotiated, the only remaining gimmick being Russia's willingness to end her occupation.

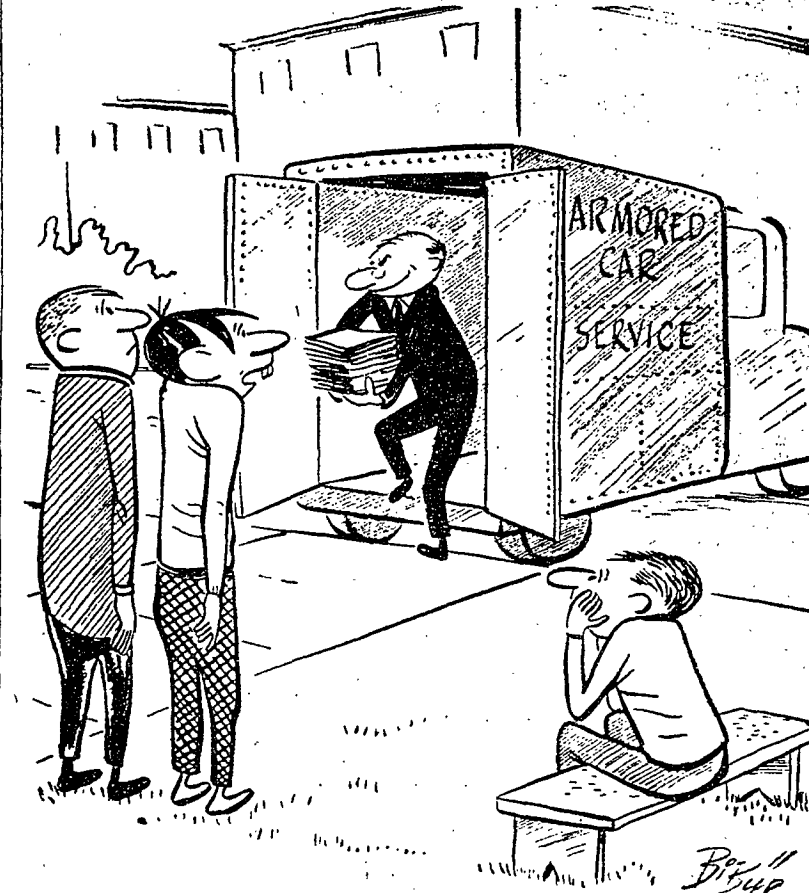
At these as well as all other conflictive points of contact between Russia and the West, around the world, the initiative was Russia's in the beginning, and can only be Russia's in the end. The West has

taken no initiative, and no initiative is open to it except force in one form or another. In power politics, persuasion doesn't get far.

That was the point Dulles was trying to get across to the Indian press, along with the need for a Middle Eastern defense arrangement and for restricting non-Communist trade with Red China.

The statement may have contained, too, some of his answers to topics which he and Prime Minister Nehru have been discussing. One of the great objectives of his trips to the Middle and Far East is to clarify the doubts in the neutralist Indian mind about the motives of the West, and particularly of the United States, in Asia.

Little Man on Campus By Bibler



"Well, guess we may as well get ready—here's Professor Snarf with the Econ. 14 finals."

Book Review

Dry Sun, Dry Wind

By HELEN LOUISE LUYBEN

Dry Sun, Dry Wind, David Wagoner's first volume of poetry, is deficient in one thing—quantity. Wagoner, a graduate of Penn State and now an instructor in English composition—has given us just enough of his poetry to make us want to read more.

Published by the Indiana University Press, Dry Sun, Dry Wind is available in bookstores downtown. The book is divided into two parts. The first contains 22 lyric poems. Eight narrative poems, character sketches in the form of soliloquies, complete the volume.

Wagoner's subject is the pitiless encroachment of a dry death upon the landscape and, later in the book, upon people. "Sun carries death to leaves," "The dunes alter . . ." Death to Wagoner is "Sleep, tenderest, beneath a brother sun." And when the preceding line, from "At Last, Companion Season," is read aloud, the second word sounds like "tender rest"—a lovely way to think of death. Wagoner writes beautifully rather than bitterly about an ordinarily depressing subject.

The poet, who is from Whiting, Ind., writes of the water, wind and sand of the Lake Michigan territory he knows well. His description is concrete and clear and his imagery, original and bright. "Dust goes dancing in the room," "Autumn whirls the weathervane," "October pulls the awnings down."

In "Late October" he sketches vividly "junior witches" and "a knee-high ghost in sneakers and a spotted sheet." The poem ends with these three lines:

"I shall take to bed
Last year's pumpkinhead
With the same little light inside."

When Wagoner's poetry is read aloud his lines almost sing: The napkins and the cigarettes . . . Are sifting through the tennis nets."

In his thirteenth poem, "Shape," the poet describes man as two concentric spheres; "The outer sphere begins his body where . . . He can be seen in barren, sunlit air . . . The inner sphere starts where he can be heard . . . The rest is dreams, symmetrically absurd."

Wagoner's personalities in the character sketches reveal themselves brilliantly. There is "Erich the Printer" who says: "If letterheads were love, I would be Christ . . . Incarnate in this room, where the ink leaks . . . Like blood from the chipped bottles . . ." and "All day, men come . . . Out of the cracks in sidewalks, flashing . . . Their key-chains and their coins like fires . . . Asking the bodies of my type, dear starvelings . . . To spell their names."

Many of the poems were published originally in Poetry, The Folio, Voices: A Journal of Poetry, Harper's Bazaar, and The Sewanee Review.

Mr. Wagoner studied under Theodore Roethke, formerly pro-

fessor of English composition at the College, to whom Dry Sun, Dry Wind is dedicated. The first student to earn a master's degree in creative writing at Indiana University, Wagoner was given national recognition in being asked to spend a summer a Yaddo, the subsidized artist's colony in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

If at First You Don't Succeed, Quit!

NEW YORK, May 22 (AP)—Grace Orennan, a Hinsdale, Ill., secretary painted a self portrait and didn't think she did too good a job.

So she used the reverse side of the picture to paint a cat. She liked that painting and entered it in a National Amateur Art Festival Competition here.

Today she has a prize from the festival judges—for the self portrait.

Building Rate Hindered by Korea Conflict

Construction rate at the College is considerably behind schedule due to the Korea conflict, Walter Wiegand, director of the College physical plant, said yesterday.

Additions are being made to five buildings on campus and three new buildings are under construction, he said.

Additions are being made to Pattee Library, Buckhout Laboratory, Mineral Science Building, and Nittany Lion Inn. A south wing is being added to Recreation Hall.

The addition to the inn will cost about \$1 million.

One of the new buildings under construction is the Animal Disease Research Building. This project is located on Farm 9.

A new chemistry laboratory is being erected behind Walker Laboratory.

Biggest project is the Student Union Building. It is expected to be completed in the fall of 1954 at a cost of \$2 million. It is being built on Holmes Field, across from Osmond Laboratory.

Gazette . . .

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Joseph Bell, Ralph Brooks, Gordon Carpenter, Jose Carreiro, John Connerton, Charles Diehm, Glenn Grove, Nancy Kern, Lee Kummer, Geraldine Lalli, Ralph Laudenslayer, William Marsh, Ann Menges, Gino Mori, Thomas F. Owens, Pat Runco, Walter Segl and Robert Thomas.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Students from Philadelphia area wanted for summer jobs in selling.

Men wanted for meal serving jobs on and off campus next fall.

Men wanted for garden and lawn, housework, and odd jobs.

Men wanted for production work near Lancaster. Full time summer work.

Boy or girl with medical lab experience wanted for latter part of July, beginning of August, to work in State College.

Boy or girl with ability to take x-rays wanted for first two weeks of August in State College. Pottstown Community Camp will interview waterfront man May 23.