

Behind the ROTC Question

# Fireworks Extinguished By 1933 ROTC Program

Fifteenth of a Series

ROTC fireworks, which blazed away in 1931-32 until the Board of Trustees proposed a new program, only sizzled mildly until the program went into effect in 1933, and then were extinguished entirely.

The new plan called for varied courses pertinent to the student's curriculum to be substituted for some of the compulsory military drill.

Officials of the Department of Military Science and Tactics at first praised the trustees' policy. Col. Walter B. M. McCaskey, head of the department, said, "This plan is headed in the direction of the best modern national defense policy."

But just one month later McCaskey was again interviewed by a Daily Collegian reporter. This time he said:

"... the opposition to ROTC among the students here is artificially sustained by agencies both within and outside the college." Without this pressure "the objection would die out of its own weight. . . . The first lesson every man, woman and child needs to learn is obedience to and respect for competent superior authority."

In February 1933, Collegian published the results of a poll of "a selected list of graduates who now hold prominent positions in industrial, business, and educational circles."

Nineteen of the alumni polled called the contribution of ROTC work taken at Penn State "negligible" to success after graduation. Twelve listed the contribution as "perceptible," nine as "great," five as "very great" and two as "detrimental."

Speaking of military training taken at Penn State, one alumnus said in the poll:

"... under the conditions in which the training has to be given at a college . . . I consider

it pretty largely a waste of time for all but a few of the students . . . I could not see that my two years of drill had any value in preparing me to be a soldier."

A Collegian editorial in April 1932, noted that "Petitions are being circulated on the campus demanding that the Board of Trustees of the college make ROTC an optional course."

The editorial praised the plan proposed by the Trustees the previous year and scheduled to go into effect in the fall semester of 1933.

The Board of Trustees' proposed ROTC program, in slightly modified form, went into effect as planned the following semester. The policy had been worked out by Lt. Col. Russel V. Venable, who had replaced McCaskey as head of the Department of Military Science and Tactics.

Eleven fewer hours of drill was the net result of the program changes. The new program included a lecture on military policy and history, two on the obligations of citizens, and two lectures on current international situations.

Thus, under the new plan students received more theoretical instruction in related subjects as well as the regulation army drill. Venable said more changes would be made from year to year.

### BusAd Council to Meet

The Business Administration Student Council will meet at 6:35 tonight in 205 Boucke.

## UCA to Hold Advent Matin

The University Christian Association will sponsor the last in a series of advent matins services on the theme "Gifts for the King" at 7 a.m. tomorrow in the Helen Eakin Eisenhower Memorial Chapel.

Wells Hunt, sophomore in arts and letters from Wayland, Mass., will speak on "Myrrh—Symbol of Sacrifice." Hunt is chairman of the UCA religious education commission.

UCA president Richard Martin will be the organist for the service. Samuel Fisher, finance chairman, will assist in the service.

A light breakfast in the lounge will follow the 45-minute service.

## Coed Commuters to Hold Annual Christmas Party

The Women's Commuters Club will hold its annual Christmas party at noon tomorrow in the commuter's lounge of Woman's Building.

Commuters have been asked to bring their lunch and a 50-cent gift for exchange.

## Men's Debate Team Places 17th in Field of 55 at Pitt

The men's debate team learned yesterday that it placed 17th in a field of 55 in the University of Pittsburgh Cross Examination Tournament.

The team won six, lost three and tied one debate in the tournament held Friday and Saturday.

The affirmative team, consisting of Alan Elms, sophomore in psychology from La Center, Ky., and Marshall Jacobson, junior in business administration from Clearfield, beat Fredonia and California State Teachers College.

They were defeated by Rutgers and the University of West Virginia. They tied the University of Pittsburgh.

The negative team, consisting of Keith Otterbein, senior in arts and letters from Warren, and Byron LaVan, senior in business administration from Philadelphia, beat Western Ontario University, Case Institute of Technology, Louisville and the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

The negative team was defeated by Ohio Wesleyan College. They debated the national topic, "Resolved: That requirement in a labor organization as a con-

dition of employment should be made illegal."

The cross-examination debate differs from the conventional type. Instead of the usual rebuttal, members of both sides have the opportunity to ask direct questions of the opposition.

## EngArch Scholarships

Sophomores in the College of Engineering and Architecture may apply for two full-tuition scholarships for the spring semester at the dean's office, Sackett Building.

The scholarships are sponsored by the Engineering and Architecture Student Council.

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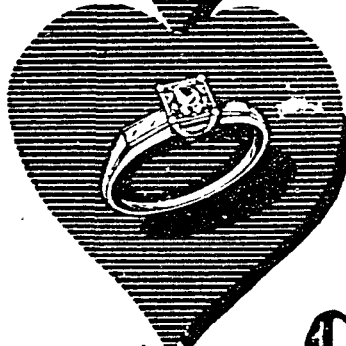
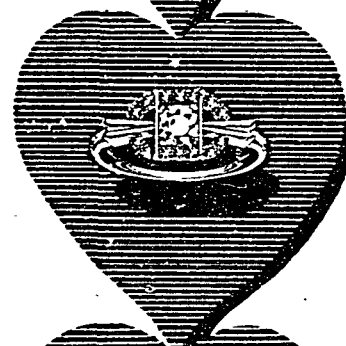
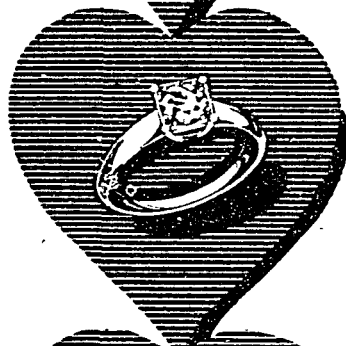
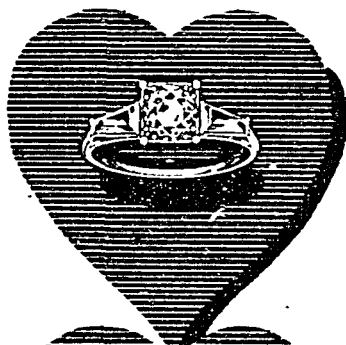


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