

Editorial Opinion

Closing Factory Doors

One of the most stimulating images of a university is that of crowds of students—from many different courses—overflowing a classroom to hear a gifted professor lecture.

It could become common at Penn State, too, if students take advantage of the new open classes policy.

But the Education Student Council, apparently thinking along the lines of an "educational factory," has voted to oppose open classes.

The council voted against open classes apparently mainly because the members thought classes could not be conducted effectively with visitors drifting in and out, and because visitors would hinder the professors in taking roll.

First, the council members should have understood that open classes do not mean that students would be popping in and out as though the classroom were a cigar store; it is expected that any student who sits in on a class will remain for the entire lecture.

And it's hard to believe that any professor would be bothered by too many spectators; whatever discomfort caused him almost certainly would be made up by the compliment of popularity.

As for the difficulty in taking roll, it could be ironed out pretty easily by the professor before the lecture began. And the need for taking attendance seems rather petty when compared to the long stride towards liberal education which the open class policy provides.

May the council's decision die a quiet death.

A Real Live Library?

The present facilities of the Fred Lewis Pattee Library are not adequate to the increasing educational demands of the University—this is apparent to both students and faculty members.

The number of volumes is pitifully low in comparison to the numbers at similar universities. Research facilities are not such that encourage much research. There is not enough space to handle the students who would use the library.

But things are going to change, according to Librarian Ralph M. McComb, and change in a big way. McComb has outlined a plan for library expansion which is comprehensive and ambitious, and should go far toward putting the University in competition with other great schools across the country.

Foremost among the planned improvements is the doubling of the number of volumes in the library, bringing the total up to 1 million. McComb's plans also include such other improvements as construction of a new wing, bolstering research facilities and adding personnel.

The library program isn't definite yet; a great deal in added funds will be necessary to carry the proposal through. But the imaginative plans show that the University has not forgotten the library in planning for the vast educational needs of the future.

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Letters

Tornado Power Is Calculated

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to discuss a portion of the Associated Press story dealing with tornadoes that appeared in yesterday's Collegian. The author of the article pointed out that guided missiles might be fired into tornadoes in order to dissipate their energy.

However, if these people would actually calculate the tremendous energy that these weather phenomena possess, they would realize that such methods of weather control are doomed to failure.

A single thunderstorm covering but a few square miles contains energy equal to 100 atomic bombs. If a guided missile carrying a bomb loaded with energy equivalent to a 100 A-bombs was fired into this storm, there is no guarantee that the storm would be destroyed.

Even if the storm were completely dissipated, which is unlikely, deadly radiation would be spread over many square miles, causing far more fatalities than the thunderstorm.

On the other hand, let's look at the tremendous energy possessed by a hurricane, the mightiest of storms. If all the energy from one hurricane could be harnessed, it could run every single electric device in the United States for fifty years.

One can see from the above illustration that the forces of weather are much greater than those man has produced.

—Joel Myers, '61 Collegian Weather Forecaster

Gazette

TODAY

- Air Force Glee Club, 3 p.m., HUB Assembly
Alpha Phi Alpha, 8:30, 215 HUB
Awards Night Committee, 7 p.m., 217 HUB
Book Store Committee, 1 p.m., 218 HUB
Bridge Club, 6:30 p.m., HUB Cardroom
Brotherhood Banquet, 6 p.m., HUB Ballroom
Christian Fellowship, 12:30 p.m., 218 HUB
Christian Science, 8:30 p.m., 217 HUB
Dairy Science, speaker—Miss Milkmaid of Pennsylvania, 7 p.m., 117 Dairy
Delta Nu Alpha, 7:30 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
Gamma Sigma Sigma, 7 p.m., Grange Rec Room
Hillel, Coffee Hour, Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, 4 p.m., Hillel Lounge; Intermediate Hebrew, 7 p.m., Hillel; Yiddish Course, 7 p.m., Hillel.
Outing Club, 7 p.m., HUB Assembly
Sigma Tau Delta, 7:30 p.m., 218 HUB
Society for Advancement of Marketing, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Spring Week, 7 p.m., 214 HUB

from here to infinity

But What Will Our Children Think?

by bob thompson

Isn't science wonderful?

We marvel at the conveniences that our friends of the engineering set have made possible and wonder what the future could possibly hold that would be better. Wonder what our children will have to say about our "modern day conveniences?"

Looking back to when Mom and Dad were our age we discover that "the world's tallest hotel" had just been completed. It was the Waldorf-Astoria—and built over a railway, yet! It was completed in 1931.

In the December, 1931, issue of Modern Mechanics we read that the new hotel has a system "whereby its climate is made to order—cool, dry, warm or moist." Maybe they'll call this innovation air conditioning.

It was in 1931 that a revolution came to the law enforcement agencies of the country. Police motorcycles were being built with 2-way radios in them!

A new type carpet cleaning instrument was put on the market then. It was a tank-type "high-suction cleaner."

Then there was a heater that burned solidified alcohol that "provides sufficient heat for one room and is particularly useful with a baby in the home." Wonder what the little

tyke will do with it? Set the place on fire?

Another new rage of the day—obviously the forerunner to the electric fry pan—was an electric portable hotplate decorated in color combinations to match the color of one's breakfast nook. What they won't think of next!

One scientist of the day stunned everyone with the prediction—and calculations and drawings to back it up—"that 'meteor islands' carrying sun-reflecting mirrors can be established banishing darkness." He claimed that reaching a height of 65 miles, the "meteors" would circle the earth, never coming down. How did he propose getting the things there? By "turbine rockets" careening at an unbelievable speed of five miles a second! We wonder if this bird worked on "Vanguard?"

Engineers predicted an early end to skyscraper building. Future buildings would be lower, occupying more ground space because building sway, extreme heights, and elevator riding is objectionable to too many tenants.

One account told of new cigarettes being developed to (Continued on page eight)



THOMPSON

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Double exclamation.
5 Jazz term.
8 Nip with a gripping instrument.
14 Strong metal cord; 2 words.
16 Authoress Atkinson.
17 Give car unwittingly.
18 Oyster-lover, in Lewis Carroll.
19 Guide.
20 Craze.
22 Before: Prefix.
23 Undertake.
25 Reward: Poet.
26 Baby sheep.
30 Harry — Fosdick.
32 On the deep: Poet.
33 Madame: Abbr.
34 Out of — (not in proper order).
37 Man's hat style.
39 Exhaust, as of energy.
40 Snoopers.
41 Symbol of greed.
42 Where to spend a rial.
43 Had a rendezvous.
45 Painter's plaster.
46 "The wonderful one-hoss —"

DOWN

- 15 Ostriches.
21 Soul: Fr.
24 Dotted, as with stars.
25 Girl's name.
26 Man from Lapland.
27 Hebrew lyre.
28 Citation; 2 words.
29 Where to buy napoleons.
31 Taste.
33 Actress Uta.
35 Greek letters.
36 City N of Carson City.
38 Crowbar.
39 Our envoy in Berlin during Hitler's rise.
41 Author of "The Little Foxes."
44 Rocky hill.
45 Tree protuberance.
46 Opportunity.
47 Chinese province.
49 Mistake.
51 Musical finale.
53 French stylist.
54 Villain in 1604 drama.
55 Anagram of 54 Down.
56 Author of "Ferdinand and the Bull."
58 Escape: Slang.
60 GI mailing center.

