

St. John's Collegian

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College Meeting

Mr. Nabokov announced the first concert of the year for the St. John's Community Orchestra Feb. 7 at 4 P. M. in Iglehart Hall. It will be a benefit performance for the Red Cross in which both the Orchestra and the Chorus will participate. Some of the selections to be played will be the 1st Symphony of Beethoven and Beethoven's Contra Dances. The Chorus will sing a group of English Madrigals and a Bach Choral.

More news from the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps Unassigned! When those who are in the Reserve Corps are called, they will go as a group from their respective schools. The boy that enlisted first will be responsible for the group arriving at the right place at the right time. This will make it necessary for those boys to report back to school after our March vacation. It may be well to note that no date has been definitely set for the calling.

The Dean, in delivering his weekly message to Pinkney, announced that he was deeply puzzled. Wild farewell parties must go, and locks and door knobs must stay. Why such things are not going and staying he does not know. No matter how trivial such things may appear on the surface, they have their serious side also. The maids are about to give Pinkney up as a lost cause. The opening of doors and the keeping of them shut will be a lost cause if we don't preserve those door knobs and locks that we now have.

Comment: It will be hard to conceive of next year's freshmen being any littler than this year's.

S. T.

Troll

The editors wish to apologize to Mr. Vissy Gurd, for whose essay, *Muscular Hypertrophy as an End and a Means*, there was no space in this issue. A lovely essay, Mr. Gurd, and try again.

Humber

Robert Lee Humber spoke yesterday in support of the proposal for world federation which he has put before the Maryland State legislature for ratification. Very few of the delegates bothered to attend, despite the magnitude of the measure before them. Mr. Humber has devoted his entire time to the presentation of his plan, which he hopes to have accepted by all forty-eight states and forwarded to the government at Washington.

In yesterday's speech he began by analogizing his scheme to the federation of the United States. Such a union throughout the world, he said, has been approximated before in the League of Nations, the World Court, and the network of international treaties prior to the war. In theory, the union of groups of nations according to geographical, ideological or economic proximity has often been proposed. But the world agreements of the twenties failed because they were not by law (because they could not be enforced), and plans for the grouping of nations are inadequate to the natural unity of the present-day world state. This unity has been imposed by the development of technologies; the parts of the world are now economically, and so politically, dependent on each other. Mr. Humber insists that peace and world unity are the goal of all men in this new order, of both factions in the present conflict, particularly of the Americans, whom he somehow finds to be fighting in that worthy cause.

Turning more particularly to his proposal, he pointed out, no doubt to calm the more nervous senators, that it embraces in its present form only a definition of the principle of world order. The President is to direct a study of this principle and what follows from it, a world committee to agree upon its application in practice.

Mr. Humber spoke badly in the old senatorial manner. But there was a great deal of applause from the St.

John's contingent. The floor, however, offered only one question: were the United Nations to have ten fingers in the pie?

B. B.

Births, Marriages, and Inductions

The COLLEGIAN will devote this column to vital statistics. This week we give you clippings as follows, straight from the nation's press:

"From a small kid to the present day young Joseph W. C. Gray was interested and loved all sorts of aircraft. As a youngster in Annapolis High and later as a student at St. John's College, young Gray pursued his hobby of building and flying model airplanes on the nearby fields. Now Mr. Gray's highest ambitions are beginning to materialize, for he has entered the Army Air Forces Pre-Flight School at Salem Field, Monroe, Louisiana, and he will fly against the evil forces of Democracy in the service of America."

"Private William Lundberg is in training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, with the mechanized field artillery. A sophomore at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., he left school to enter the service in November."

"Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Doar, of Madison, Wisconsin, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Margaret Doar, to Mr. Burton Armstrong, son of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Budd Armstrong, of Scarborough on Hudson, New York. The wedding will take place in the spring. Miss Doar attended the University of Wisconsin and is on the staff of the War Department's technical publication, 'Ordnance'."

"Having completed pre-flight and primary training, William Booth Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Price, Newcomb, is now a basic flying cadet at the Bainbridge, Ga., Army Air Field. A former student at St. John's College, Annapolis, Cadet Price was a leading athlete," etc.

Mr. Adler on Law

Mortimer Adler lectured last Friday evening.

The topic:

The Philosophy of Law.

The theses:

- (1) Law is one in kind, viz., positive.
- (2) The theory of law underwent no significant development until the Constitutionalists of the 18th century.

The schema:

- (1) Greek contribution to law.
- (2) Roman contribution to law.
- (3) Mediæval contribution to law.
- (4) American contribution to law.

He came, as he said, to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The *precis*: (1) *Greek*: I. a distinction: between the *lawful*, as anything bearing on the *common* good, and the *fair*, as commutative justice, *particular* good; II. a definition: political justice is "partly natural and partly legal" (Aristotle). Mr. Adler then: (A) expatiated on the nature of political justice as a voluntarily instituted determination of indeterminate natural justice to the "hic et nunc"; (B) differentiated two contesting legal theories on the basis of their undue emphasis on either the natural or arbitrary elements in political justice (the one neglects the variable and mutable, the other the universal and immutable constituents in all legal codes); (C) revealed that Aristotle never yoked, as we do, *physis* with *nomos*; (D) defined (a) equity; (b) constitution; (c) absolutism, and, (d) the obedience of authority. (Source texts: *Ethics*: Bk. V; *Politics*: Bks. III & IV; *Plato's Statesman*.)

(2) *Roman*: I. A Stoic accent on the omnipresence of law, elevating "urbs" to "orbs"; II. an introduction of the notion "natural law" by Cicero, changing "ius naturale" to "lex naturale"; III. the invention of "ius gentium" by the Roman "praetor peregrinus", i.e. the law resulting from the reconciliation of Roman civil with subject peoples' laws by reference to a higher law, somewhere between both. (Source texts: Cicero: *De Legibus*; Gaius, Ulpian, Papinianus.)

(3) *Medieval*: I. St. Thomas' definitions, differentiating ("elaborates but

confuses"—Adler) the "kinds of law": eternal, non-eternal; natural, positive; human, Divine; Mosaic, Christian; etc. II. St. Thomas' definition of Positive law, viz., "nothing else than an ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community, and promulgated." (Q. 90; Art. 4.)

Mr. Adler then analyzed the definition, comparing natural with positive law by opposing their differences thus: discoverable to instituted, necessary to contingent, ultimate end to proximate good, conscience to coercion, indeterminate to determinate.

(4) *American*: The Constitutionalists I. were the first to hearken to the Angelic's Doctor's very mundane admonition, that law without coercive sanction "is no better than advice," and hence, II. they placed even the president under the sanction of the law. In mediæval times, the lecturer pointed out, the Prince, who in some sense "made" the law, was in some sense "above" it—civil authorities being servants to Papal, which were themselves "servos servorum Dei."

(5) The lecture closed with some timely remarks on law, peace, and force: "International law is not law but a gentleman's agreement, which lasts only so long as the contracting parties are gentlemen; Versailles "armed the litigants, not the law." *Conclusion*: (Maj.): "Peace as opposed to truce depends on the supremacy of law" (Adler); (Atqui): without force there is no law" (Hamilton); (Ergo): "justice and force are indispensable for peace;—as men are neither brutes nor angels" (Adler).

Scraps: Poor Cicero, sporting a coat of whitewash, only recently applied, was at the outset denominated as "the cultural bottleneck of Western Europe"; only man can act simultaneously for (by volition) and against (by sin) his nature; a constitution is both a law and not a law, for it cannot measure itself.

The Question Seminar: Suggestions (*general*): (1) that hereafter a reasonable curfew be agreed upon in advance—it went till almost one a. m.! (2) that all interrogators undergoing ineffable transubjective empathies retain them in their incommunicable state *pro bono publico*; (3) related to this,

that a committee be formed to ban the balderdash of "insights" at St. John's for the duration; and (4) that (and this is frequently an "oversight") one can only really disagree with a man's conclusions if one accepts his premises—fundamentals were at issue; not conclusions but beginnings.

Suggestions (*ad hominem, tamen absit omen invidiaque*): (1) that the lecturer be wary of equivocating on St. Thomas' equivocations (explicated in q. period); (2) that the lecturer, who is an adherent of the perennial philosophy, prune the exuberance with which he hypostatizes his verbal "advances" over the said tradition; (3) that the lecturer be more deferential to men like Suarez, some of whose legal writings he styled "foolish"—if only out of pedagogical considerations, as an isolated remark like that might easily in still and possibly crystallize a premature prejudice in minds not yet competent to judge for themselves, and (4) that the lecturer might profit by the thought, frequently apposite, that there is a limitation to the profitable laboring of the obvious.

JACK CUDDIHY.

War Meeting

Mr. Nabokov spoke Sunday night of the greatest Russian of the 19th century, Leo Tolstoy, and his "War and Peace." He told us of the reaction in Russia to Tolstoy's death in 1911. Everybody took the news as a great tragedy with a direct bearing on every one's life. People were seen crying in the streets.

Tolstoy alone was powerful enough to defy the Czar and remain unpunished as an opponent to all reactionary tendencies. In his writings he was honest and never removed from the Russian people. All his characteristics were known to the reader and their conditions familiar as Tolstoy recreated words the taste, touch, and smell of Russian life in his sensual lionlike style. It was said that he wrote, that we see.

The contradictions in his personal life did not make him less loved. The bishop who excommunicated him cried afterwards; he lived in an atmosphere of wealth yet plowed the fields himself after meals. He attacked cursing and

cursed. He thought one must give up finery and lands to lead the good life, but his family prevented him from parting with his estates.

At the age of 37 he achieved greatness by writing *War and Peace*. Not in any conventional pattern was the work formed but just as the author intended it, Tolstoy said. Not a novel, not history and not a poem. Its scope is endless. "Like tasting salt, the taste never ends. It is brittle like glass with the scope of Dante. It gives feelings unexplainable in words. The scenes are numberless like a tree with many branches; you can't count them. But all big and little come together somehow," Mr. Nabokov said.

Tolstoy was conscientiously in pursuit of the truth, like the Russians who more than any other people in the world were worried about the truth in the 19th century. What is it? How can I find it? What is the summum bonum? Where is it? they asked. Two people in *War and Peace* found the answers: Osip Alexyevitch, the freemason, who taught active brotherly love, and Platon Karataev, the simple peasant whose creed was to be simple, do no harm, be natural, never lie.

Later Tolstoy disowned *War and Peace* because of the compromised life his characters lived. A combination of the luxuries of wealth and the goodness of love was not Tolstoy's final thought. He didn't solve in his life the problem of keeping his inheritance from interfering with the carrying out of his belief in the virtues of living close to the soil and working hard.

He fought the War of his book, the battle each man has to fight to find goodness and integrity in living, and the Peace was the peace of each man who found the truth. This was his war and peace, not the battles and generals the historians wrote about.

Today Tolstoy would wonder why we are astonished that the Russians fought so well. They fight today as the Russian army resisted Napoleon, with methods coming from their bellies, with conviction in their guts that love for Russia will lead them to destroy the invaders. Only the German staff officers who attempted to use reason to shape the inevitable outcome were surprised at the result then.

DONALD KAPLAN.

Arts

Last summer Katherine Hepburn made another movie with Spencer Tracy—this one is called *Keeper of the Flame*, and it's not at all as good as *Woman of the Year*. Roughly, it concerns a myth that has been built up about a great American statesman who wasn't that at all. Bright spot is Miss Audrey Christie. At the Capitol on Sunday.

We find it extremely difficult to talk of the Widener collection in any other way than quantitatively—a safe way, always, to talk about the butcher boy's etching. First of all, there are approximately 600 items in the collection now in the residence at the National Gallery. These sundry art wonders used to live in Lynnewood Hall, the Widener house outside of Philadelphia, but with fuel rationing and all that, the bacon barons decided to give it away—the *objets d'art*, we mean. Of the 600, 76 are paintings, including 14 Rembrandts, 2 Elgreco's, 2 Turner's, 2 Vermeer's and so forth down the list of the names of the greatest artists. There are 39 dull pieces of sculpture; tons of renaissance furniture, plaques, medals, jewels, plates; and about 175 Chinese vases, tea-pots with open-work, crackle jars (whatever they are), and soft paste jars (whatever they are). Honesty compels us to admit that we didn't linger too long among the crackle jars and white-rice-grain-coupees, but rather drifted toward the occidental articles. The two Elgreco's, remarkable compositions both, are *St. Martin and the Beggar* and *The Virgin with Santas Ines and Tecla*. Among the Rembrandts which the Wideners have kept us champing at the bit to see are *The Descent From the Cross*, *Philemon and Baucis*, and two head studies, *Old Man* and *Aged Woman*. There is *The Woman Weighing Gold* by Vermeer—a companion in composition and color to the *Milmaid*; three fine Titians, and a couple of pretty impressive Bellinis. The painting in the Widener group are certainly 'up to the standard (and above, perhaps) of the other collections that have been given to the American public. However, we are wondering what Mr. Widener, or the American public, could do with 175 crackle jars that all look alike.

His Bargain

Who talks of Plato's spindle;
What set it whirling round?
Eternity may dwindle,
Time is unwound,
Dan and Jerry lout
Change their loves about.
However they may take it,
Before the thread began
I made, and may not break it
When the last thread has run.
A bargain with that hair
And all the windings there.

W. B. YEATS.

SPORTS

Tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock the Athletic Department is running off three preliminary boxing bouts. One of these will be in the 135-lb. class and the other two in the 145-lb. class. The first will be between Alex Morse and Harold Hyden. Both fought last year, Morse losing to Hammer in the 145-lb. preliminary and Hyden to Levering in the 135-lb. preliminary. Morse's drop of weight will undoubtedly be of advantage to him and he has the quickness and weight necessary to a fighter of that class.

Hyden has shown great improvement since last year. The fight should go the three-round limit and promises to be interesting all the way.

A bout similar to that of Hyden and Morse will be the one between John Woodward and Thad Prout. They are both fast on their feet and quick with their punches, Woodward having the edge in speed against Prout's longer reach. Johnny may be handicapped by a recurring knee injury which will slow him down.

Carl Hammen, who last year was runner-up to Jim Raley, will meet Bill Spohn in the closing fight of the day. Bill is a newcomer to the ring but he has learned much in the short time that he has used the gloves. Hammen has the advantage of reach and experience but Spohn has proven to be not easily discouraged and may well be able to upset Hammen's apple cart with a little close work. It will be remembered that Jim Raley's crown shifted uneasily last year before he began landing rights in Carl's midriff.

Saturday the 13th, one week from tomorrow, marks the date of the finals.

They will be held at 7:30 P. M., before the dance. There will be four bouts of three two-minute rounds each. The participants in the first will be Gerald Atterbury and Robert Bonham—127-lb. class. Bonham is pretty much of a dark horse. He has a good reach, however, and being a good natural athlete, will probably prove to be a good fighter. Atterbury has shown an extraordinary ability to dish it out to larger and clumsier opponents. This match may possibly develop into a slug fest.

Levering, the defending champion, will fight the winner of the Morse-Hyden bout, and the winners of the Hammen-Spohn and Woodward-Prout fights will meet. Levering is known to have a potent left and a lot of speed.

The last bout will be between Burt Armstrong, champion for three years, and Ed Cochran, last year's challenger. It might be remembered that last year Armstrong took Cochran without too much difficulty, grunting and wild swinging to the contrary. Burt will be handicapped this year by lack of opportunity to get into top shape, but once a boxer always a boxer.

A word to all spectators: At amateur bouts it is customary to concentrate applause and excitement to the periods between rounds. Obligatory is a better word, since the referee is authorized to stop the fight if such a custom is not observed.

The referee for all bouts will be Charley Pastrana, 165-lb. amateur state champion. The bloodthirsty will be disappointed and the humane pleased to know that he considers a boxing match a sport, not a gladiatorial combat, and as such it is entirely subservient to the health and physical appearance of the participants. Those who disagree will oblige him and the Athletic Department by confining any expression of the appeal made to their cave man days to comparatively gentleman-like exhortations.

E. C.

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CALENDAR

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Fri., Feb. 5—Sat., Feb. 13, 19

Friday, February 5:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:00-7:45 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal
Bible Class
Formal Lecture--*Hebrew and Greek History*—
Albert Theodore Mollegen.

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21
Great Hall

Saturday, February 6:

8:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.-12:00 M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Athletics
The Film Club Presents
—*Broken Blossoms*

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Iglehart Hall

Sunday, February 7:

4:00 P. M.

8:00 P. M.

Concert—St. John's
Community Orchestra and Chorus
Revolution: War and Peace. Series II, No. 1

Iglehart Hall
Woodward Hall

Monday, February 8:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:00-7:45 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall

Tuesday, February 9:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00-6:00 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Recorded Music
Bible Class

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21

Wednesday, February 10:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:30 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Cotillion Board Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Paca-Carroll Soc. Room

7:30 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Theology Club Meeting
Orchestra Rehearsal

Woodward Hall
Humphreys Hall

Thursday, February 11:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00-6:00 P. M.
7:30 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Recorded Music
College Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
Great Hall

Friday, February 12:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:00-7:45 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal
Bible Class
Formal Lecture—
Erasmus—Edgar Wind

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21
Great Hall

Saturday, February 13:

8:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.-12:00 M.
10:00 P. M.-2:00 A. M.

Chapel Service
Athletics
Valentine's Dance—
Informal

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Iglehart Hall