

Capitol Campus To Have Plant-In

Middletown, Pa. — Sit-in, march-ins, and love-ins are common on college campuses these days, but would you believe a plant-in?

That's exactly what students and faculty at The Pennsylvania State University's Capitol Campus plan next month when they'll exercise their green thumbs in an effort to beautify their campus.

Academic pursuits will be put aside on April 15 as some 330 trees are planted on the campus, an upper-division college and graduate center located in the former north complex of Olmsted Air Force Base.

The University is supplying the trees and planting know-how. Students and faculty are supplying the necessary manpower.

The tree-planting project, being organized by the Student Government Association, was initiated after students and faculty members expressed their concern about the "sterile atmosphere" of the campus and the lack of trees and other shrubbery.

In fact, early in the Fall Term, several students took it upon themselves to go out in the woods and remove a small tree, and plant it on the campus as a means of visualizing their concern.

"Many of us felt that trees were needed to dress up the area and make it look more like a traditional college campus," said John Lybarger, president of the Student Government Assn.

"We approached Mr. Herpel (Coleman Herpel, campus director) about the possibility of such a project. Later we were informed that President Walker (Eric Walker, PSU president) would provide special funds for the purchase of trees if the students would plant them."

Lybarger then formed a committee to organize the project and named Paula Holtzman, a senior from Philadelphia, as chairman. Members, in addition to Lybarger, are Patricia Harlacher, a senior from Highspire, and Eugene Weller, a junior from Montgomery, Pa.

In organizing the project, the

student committee sought the advice of Mr. Paul W. Pierson, head of landscape planning for the University's Physical Plant Planning and Construction Division.

The types of trees to be planted were selected and a planting plan developed. Trees to be planted include Sugar Maple, American Sweetgum, Red Pine, London Plane, Pin Oak, Washington Hawthorne, and two types of Crabapple.

The biggest problem now facing the committee is the procurement of shovels for the project.

"We have received a promise of a loan of about 30 shovels from the Middletown Borough," Lybarger said, "and there is a possibility they may provide a back hoe to make the planting holes prior to the Tree Day. But we probably need a total of 150 shovels to do the job."

Lybarger said supervision groups are being organized to provide security for the shovels loaned to the students and to make certain that the trees are planted properly.

Undergraduate classes at the campus, both morning and afternoon, will be dismissed so that students and faculty may devote themselves to tree planting.

A formal ceremony is scheduled for 9 a. m. in front of the main building on the campus.

WANTED!

★ ★ WANTED ★ ★

4 (FOUR)

Tall, young, eligible men for escorts to the Greek Ball.

Contact:

- 1) Zelda Glutzmeier
- 2) Mathilda Hatwater
- 3) Hortenzia Grump
- 4) Penelope Hackemgluzer

P. S. We will pay ! ! !

All applicants file in care of this newspaper.

Fraternity May Affect Grades

University Park, Pa. — Students who join a fraternity may pay a price with their grades.

In a Pennsylvania State University study, Dr. James A. Rhodes individually matched freshmen living in campus residence halls — by their college and grade point average — with students pledging the ten fraternities ranked highest scholastically and the ten ranked lowest.

First term grades averaged 2.844 for the 91 men who entered Penn State in Fall, 1966, and later joined a high achieving fraternity. After pledging in the fourth term, their grades averaged 2.559.

While their residence hall fellows slipped somewhat during the same period — from 2.840 to 2.684 — the drop was not as great.

"That the fraternities themselves are concerned about this problem," Dr. Rhodes says, "is evidenced by the fact that Interfraternity Council, which represents all 54 of Penn State's Greek letter societies, actually gave me funds for my research."

A member of the staff of the Office of the Dean of Students, and formerly in charge of fraternity affairs, Dr. Rhodes undertook his survey to help fulfill requirements toward a doctor of education degree at the University.

"The negative effects of low achieving fraternities were even more pronounced," he continues. "Their 49 pledges dropped from a first term average of 2.782 to 2.456 in fourth term. Those in the dorms actually raised their grades from 2.775 to 2.854."

Differences in curricula may account for low achieving residence hall students surpassing even the two high groups, he believes.

The grades of 108 freshmen who entered Penn State in Fall, 1965, and were inducted into the ten high achieving fraternities in Winter and Spring Terms of the next year, followed the same patterns as those of the 1966 freshmen, according to Dr. Rhodes. The high achieving group

dropped from a 2.825 grade point average to 2.483.

In following the grades of the 1965 students through three additional terms, however, Dr. Rhodes noted that their marks rose again to a 2.601 average in the seventh term.

For 83 low achieving inductees, the first term average was 2.774; the fourth, 2.073; and the seventh, 2.417.

"Tests administered to residence hall and fraternity groups showed no real difference between them either in regard to their study habits or attitudes," Dr. Rhodes points out.

All 20 fraternities cooperated fully when Dr. Rhodes requested permission to visit their houses to inspect study facilities and interview selected officers.

Both high and low achieving Greek societies offered similar physical facilities for study. The high achieving groups did keep extensive, up-to-date examination files which were well organized and regularly used.

High achieving fraternities had a tendency to be professionally oriented, with slightly higher standards for selecting pledges. They had fewer pledge classes per year and spent less time on pledging activities. Interpersonal relationships were warmer, and there was a greater spirit of cooperation between members and pledges than in low achieving groups.

On the other hand, hazing and pre-initiation practices in low achieving fraternities were decidedly more harsh. For example, four of the low, but none of the high groups, reported that paddling in one form or another was still accepted practice. Low achieving fraternities also placed considerably more emphasis on social activities.

"Fraternities," Dr. Rhodes concluded, "are currently operating in a number of ways which are in conflict with the values and purposes of the University."

He suggests that fraternity house corporations develop long range plans for improving study conditions and facilities, that they relegate social objectives to their proper place with regard to newly defined educational goals.