

Penn State Collegian

Published semi-weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College, in the interests of the College, the students, faculty, alumni and friends.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1928.

SELECTING A FRATERNITY

With the designated "rest period" at an end, fraternities have renewed their vigorous campaigns to solicit a dozen or more buyers of the stock of Gamma Gamma, Beta Delta, or whatever other Greek letters may signify their fraternal organizations. With lead pipes out of vogue, if not legitimately prohibited, the divers advertising committees have adopted the padded mit as a necessary and more comfortable method of securing brothers-in-blood—and board.

For both the fraternity and the rushee the critical moment is breathing with imminent gravity. Freshmen, no doubt, may be living in fear of either a blank bid card or one that bears fraternalities not particularly within his choice. Fraternities, on the other hand, unschooled as they are in the art of rushing under the "closed" system, await more or less nervously the all important Saturday night, fearing that many well-filled dinner platters may repose on the festive boards, untouched, cold from exposure. If both fraternity and rushee could only "get together on the proposition," perhaps there would be no wasted food or anxious moments.

The momentous question, however, should not concern the possibility of securing the desired quota nor the problem of the freshman in making the fraternity grade. Instead, fraternities should take advantage of the rest period to decide carefully which men—as men, not as athletes—would adapt themselves to their respective fraternities most suitably, while the rushees, on the other hand should determine fairly which group has impressed them as one in which he could fit naturally and easily.

In pursuance of the solution to his impending and critical problem the freshman, perplexed as he may be, should gather his wits and seek the answer philosophically. Fraternities, he should know, were not originally organized as societies for the seeking of honors. Neither did the men who founded them intend that they should devote their energy primarily to obtaining athletics or men who might become otherwise prominent about the campus. Instead of the shelf of silver trophies or the gallery of famous personages now on display, the charter members would offer fellowship, and all its synonyms, as the greatest of great inducements in attracting prospective brothers.

It cannot be denied, after all, that fellowship, fraternity, brotherhood, mutual understanding are the greatest results that fraternities can hope to accomplish. Greater than athletic attainment, greater than social prestige, greater than campus power are these, the simplest but greatest attributes of any fraternity. A misplaced freshman cannot hope to share them. Nor can the rushee who has pledged merely because he feels obligated to become a brother because of "services rendered" by interested fraternity men.

Another common mistake is made by many who accept the button merely because a former companion is a member of a certain fraternity or because a present friend intends to "go that house." Logically, the rushee should consider the fraternity as a group instead of as a man, be he a bosom friend or a campus notable.

Now the matter of selecting a fraternity lies entirely in the hands of the brother and the rushee. He who decides most wisely and carefully will obviously live the happiest four years of his life comfortably and without regret. Otherwise—

A SENIOR YEARBOOK?

Recently there has been some sentiment in favor of a senior yearbook instead of a junior annual. The opinion is based on the argument that the senior year is the logical time for a yearbook, that the college annual is primarily an individual and collective summary of each class's four years in college and should therefore be given to each student at the end of his college career. Each graduate, then will carry with him into the world a complete record of his undergraduate life. The junior annual with its senior section makes the purchase of two yearbooks necessary.

The junior La Vie has been considered satisfactory during its long use here and the change to a senior yearbook would necessitate a complete upheaval of the present system. The arguments in favor of a senior annual hardly warrant the

expenditure of the time and energy required for the change. A senior La Vie would present a decidedly different and difficult financial problem.

SALUTING THE PRESIDENT

It is customary at Penn State for every student to salute the President. Recently undergraduates have been lax in the observance of this custom not through disrespect for the President, but because there is some misunderstanding as to what constitutes a "salute." In the period of time during which Penn State had no executive dignity there was no occasion to practice the salute and consequently students have forgotten just how the gesture is performed.

There is a prevailing notion that to properly salute the prexy one must come to a full halt, click heels together, pose stiffly in military fashion for a moment and perform the conventional army salute. The notion is current, but false. The proper gesture is something between the formal military salute and the free-and-easy "Hi-yuh, Jim" wave of the hand. It is a gesture of the arm indicating recognition and respect. It is a worthy and venerable tradition, the first and most important of all traditions at Penn State.

The Bullosopher's Chair

Smithers: Why the frown, Bullosopher?
 "I'm not frowning, Smithers. That's a fixed grin from handshaking freshmen under the new rushing system."
 Smithers: I take it that you are not in favor of the new idea.

"You mistake me. I am all for it but with reservations."
 Smithers: And the reservations are?
 "Too many to mention."

Smithers: I agree that it has some faults, but I have heard much praise and little blame.
 "My ears must have been turned the other way. All the remarks I have heard are very disturbing. Seems that every crowd feels certain that its particular rival has a dozen prize frosh walking about with pledge buttons in their pockets, merely waiting for Saturday night. Doubtless they would like to sew up a few special cases but the penalties are heavy and they prefer to adhere to the code."

Smithers: Do you think there is any lead-piping going on?
 "No! As I said before, I think those days are gone forever. One thing that bothers me is the fact that the rushing period is too long. I haven't had a decent night's sleep since it started. Then, too, the cost per pledge is much higher than before. With the old system, we could get our men within a few days by concentrating on the ones we wanted instead of dragging them back at odd intervals. One can hardly do any serious talking without fear of violating the rules. It is impossible to ask even casual questions without being accused of fraternity turpitude. And, finally, I don't think it is a good idea to hand a freshman a dozen cards indicating bids to as many fraternities, as it not only gives him an exaggerated idea of his social graces and self-importance, but it might also lead to admissions concerning bids that would be embarrassing to the crowds that failed to pledge the man."

Smithers: Wouldn't it be funny if a house found the twenty-five freshmen they had bid all sitting on the porch on Saturday night?
 "Certainly! But it is going to be funnier when only one solitary frosh arrives for supper. Yes, there are going to be a flock of disappointed houses, but I think there will be more downcast freshmen that will develop anti-social and inferiority complexes. Oh, well, perhaps time will heal these faults."

Smithers: Have you no complimentary remarks for the system?
 "By all means! And the funny part of it is, that the breaks are all in favor of the freshmen. He gets a better chance to see more than one or two crowds before he has to decide. He chooses his fraternity just as finally as the fraternity has chosen him. He doesn't have to make hasty decisions without time to consider the facts coldly and reasonably as he did under the emotional stress of the old high-pressure system. One the other hand, the fraternities have improved their tactics and internal co-operation, by originating novel and interesting entertainment in the effort to attract the most discerning men."

Smithers: What improvements would you suggest?
 "Only one occurs to me at the moment. I believe that matters would be greatly simplified if each freshman were to submit a list of fraternities that he would like to join in the order of his preference. His acceptance would then become automatic and save him many hours of confused thinking and eliminate knowledge of the bids he received from less desirable groups."

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Side Lines

We're here again for another football year—to take up where we left off last fall. We hope to relate some of the grip gossip floating through the air, at the same time observing and recording the curious incidents which break up the monotony of the long training siege.

The contest Saturday certainly produced a hard drill for the Lion grid-men. Dutch Ricker, giant tackle, showed the effects of play toward the end of the game when in running to his position on the line he produced a peculiar ostrich-like gallop. "What's that Ricker, the Dutch shimmy?" blurted Bez from the sidelines.

Wolff's splendid broken-field running produced some mighty cheers from the future Penn State supporters who viewed the game from the press box. "There goes Roepke!" were the youthful cries as Wolff, capped in the flat head-gear made famous by the erstwhile Lion flash, twisted and dodged his way through the outstretched arms of his opponents.

A stranger, watching the Nittany Lions practice a few days ago, was greatly surprised to hear the name of a former West Point All-American shouted across the field. Upon inquiry, he was informed that Bez knows Cooper French by no other Christian title than Walter, the name of his illustrious brother.

The wearing of sweat shirts by team A Saturday proved a boon to the opposing tacklers.

Dutch Ricker retaliated for a remark made by Bezdek during the tilt Saturday. After the usual one hour's play had elapsed Bez decided to keep his charges at work and made no mention of stopping the vigorous play. "Move up the floodlights, Bez" was the remark hailing from the irate Ricker.

Publication of Junior Book May Be Delayed

(Continued from first page)
 He explained that last year three-year students escaped one-third of the total assessment by changing schools after their junior year. Unless provision could be made for a full payment in their junior year, three-year students would pay only half of their class assessment under the new plan.

Mr. Fleming heartily endorsed the other proposed changes, particularly the elimination of fraternity assessments and the issuance of only one yearbook to each individual, pending, of course, on the financial stability of the change. He also thinks the La Vie Board would produce a better yearbook with two years to prepare it. He pointed out that athletic and individual records

Registration Figures Indicate Decided Gain

(Continued from first page)
 able increase over last year when the gross enrollment for the entire year was only slightly over that figure.

Best Freshman Class
 According to the registrar's figures the freshman class for this year is probably the best that has ever been admitted insofar as paper ratings are concerned. Computation shows that 50.6 per cent of the class has been graduated in the first three-fifths of their high school class.

This year the School of Engineering exceeds all others in the number of freshmen admitted, having a total of 404. The number in the various other schools is Liberal Arts, 245; Education 168; Agriculture, 147; Chemistry and Physics, 168; and Mines and Metallurgy, 49.

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The Athletic Store On Co-op Corner

DRAWING BOARDS
 20 x 26 \$1.25
 31 x 42 \$3.00
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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

First Floor, Engineering B

are incomplete under the present arrangement. The graduate manager said that the individual junior assessment was thirteen dollars last year but that with the issuance of only one book this would be reduced somewhat. This does not take into account the possible elimination of the fraternity assessment, however.

According to the 1927-28 student directory, of the 981 members of the Class of 1930, forty-six are enrolled in the pre-medical course and twenty-seven in the pre-legal course. It is not known, however, what percentage of these students will leave College at the end of this year.

Board Appointments
 Pending action on the proposal, Editor Baldwin announced the appointment of James S. Hornbeck as art editor and Alfred K. Schenck as photographic editor of the yearbook. Other appointments will be announced in the near future, he said.

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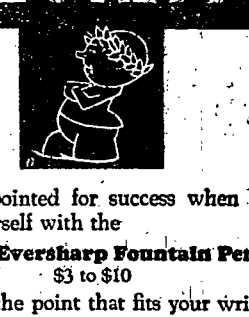
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Players Open Schedule With Graduation Show

(Continued from first page)
 the fair co-ed by Miss Anne Melling, Miss Olive Osterhout '30, and Frank P. Morris '31, will enact the parts of "Julia Winters" and "Spike Hoyt."

Cathaum Theatre

AND Nittany Theatre

NOTE: Nittany open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday each week.

TUESDAY—Cathaum—Return Showing of Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell in "STREET ANGEL"

Special Prices: adults 50c, children 25c

TUESDAY—Nittany—Bessie Love, Tom Moore in "ANYBODY HERE SEEN KELLY?"

WEDNESDAY—Sammy Cofien, Jack Pennick in "PLASTERED IN PARIS"

THURSDAY and FRIDAY—Return Showing of Charles Farrell, Greta Nissen in "FAZIL"

FRIDAY and SATURDAY—John Gilbert, Joan Crawford in "FOUR WALLS"

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