

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1930

A WISE CHANGE

When Student Council meets tonight one of the most pertinent questions confronting the members will be that of the most satisfactory selection of future La Vie staffs—by popular election, as in the past, or by competition. The movement for a competitive staff, first proposed by Fred C. Scherer '30, editor of the 1930 La Vie Supplement, and unreservedly endorsed by Bruce Baldwin and John W. Brandt, editors of the 1930 and 1929 annuals, is furthered today with the statements of Neil Fleming, graduate manager of athletics, Harry J. Postbough and Jack Eisenman, editor-in-chief and business manager respectively of the 1931 year-book.

Although he believes that \$2000—as pointed out by Baldwin—is too high an estimate of the financial saving that would obtain under a competitive system, Mr. Fleming does feel, however, that the cost of publishing each yearbook would decrease considerably. Everyone of the backers of the plan, to date, are in harmony with the idea that the same high-standard annual could be produced at a reduced cost. Quality would not be sacrificed, assuredly.

The work of the 1931 yearbook officials has little more than begun. But both can well realize the handicaps that their predecessors were forced to overcome, a handicap that amounts to ignorance of what their position entails. Under the present system of election, the editor-in-chief of La Vie must, of necessity, employ the trial and error method if he wishes to obtain the most satisfactory yearbook. The 1931 officials find it so. Competition for staff positions would eliminate unpreparedness.

Student leaders favor the change. The students, as a whole, would welcome it. Interested faculty members would, we feel sure, be in sympathy. Student Council, therefore, should act.

A survey at the University of Illinois revealed that a majority of the men now holding positions of trust in the major campus activities were members of Phi Eta Sigma, national freshman scholastic fraternity, a chapter of which was installed here in November. The probability that they, too, may be the future leaders of their class, should inspire Penn State freshmen to further effort in the classroom.

DEAN STODDARD ON "HELL WEEK"

Dean Stoddard's statements this morning evidence the rapidly spreading opinion that Hell Week as a factor in fraternity initiations benefits neither initiate, fraternity, nor College. The COLLEGIAN joins with him in his contention that the medieval physical tortures associated with fraternities since their inception can produce nothing but poor scholarship, ill-feeling between members, and public disrespect for fraternities as a whole. In order to compile a symposium representative of current student opinion relative to the practice, the COLLEGIAN this week will submit a letter in the form of a questionnaire to each fraternity president.

That Hell Week should continue, is not compatible with the present status of the College, the Dean asserts. When Penn State was experiencing its initial growing pains, there may have been excuse for the pranks characteristic of the week of initiation; but Penn State long ago outgrew its "short pants" in every department except fraternities. "When Penn State could properly be termed a 'low college' the series of brutalities known as Hell Week was considered an indispensable part of undergraduate life," the Dean said, "but now, since we have developed on the university plan, such acts of barbarism are out of place." The student, he said, objects upon not receiving a fair deal from the instructor, but this same student often does not give the freshman an equally fair deal.

Without a doubt, it is false reasoning that Hell Week indicates respect in a freshman. It is to be hoped that fraternity men will continue to become cognizant of this fact. When everyone realizes this, Hell Week will go the way of the short skirt, and our fraternities will have taken a long step forward.

The time-honored practice of telephone operators—that of letting a person sit or stand, with a receiver poised in mid-air—has been exasperating of late. Oh, if the connection is made at once, the operator usually deems one ring sufficient to stir the person being called. Surely there is a remedy for such phony service.

The Show Window

Unbeknownst to the Military department, the Campuses broke through the heavily-guarded Army lines, seated himself in the Observation Tower, and watched the collegians make merry. A swift glance revealed the Chairman, whispering faint words to his escort, Sue Reeves, the 1930 President, dividing his attention between Pat Dutton and political allies; Dean Steidle, toddling, Tom Waring, singing softly; Dean Warnock, stepping the fast ones faultlessly; Governor Fisher, missing; Hummel Fishburn, in a "swallow tail" coat; Jim Coogan, conversing with the Dean of Women, and "Uncle Joe" Ritenour, smiling sycophantically.

Hasty statistics showed, moreover, that the co-ed outnumbered the "impots"; that the freshman co-eds were in the majority, that "stags" were few in number, thanks to the vigilance committee, that there were more campus cops than there were doors, and that the crowd was equally divided between "comps" and paid admissions.

About the campus Lee Bender, the generally hatless Kappa Sig, who draws funny pictures for the Piota. . . An unidentified couple in close embrace in Liberal Arts one night last week. . . Al Noderer, T U O punster, who might write this column. . . Todd Maczys, treading a few measures with The Best-Dressed Man in College. . . Colonel McCaskey, wearing a campaign hat and looking the part of a colonel. . . Betty Kerslake, in flaming red attire. . . And what a whale of a difference these pills made with the Phi Delt Lodge. . . Mike Stepanky, enjoying a cigarette and something in the taproom. . . Cliff Geary, Phi Sig 30-30 champion. . . Bud Haupt, wearing a foalish look. . . Wm S Hoffman, our John Gilbertian Registrar, Pontiacing down the Allen Street race track. . . Ike Platt, diminutive Delta Chi, who makes funny noises with his hands. . . Hugo Bezdek jr, who scowls at the world in general, and the Campuses, in particular.

An open letter: Last Night Maple Lodge

Interfraternity Council
In care of Co-ed Bureau
State College, Pennsylvania
Gentlemen:

I had a date with a Sigma Nu for the Senior Ball, but he called me tonight and told me that the date was "all off". Heretofore he has taken me out considerably, and seemed to care for me. This incident is disturbing, nevertheless. What would you advise?
WORRIED CO-ED

The reply:
To a Co-ed in Distress

The Sigma Nu probably learned that "stags" were not welcome at the Ball. Find out if had a date for the all-College dance at the Phi Psi Ball Saturday night. If he did, try to meet a Beta. In closing, let us assure you that we are in complete sympathy with the women's movement at Penn State.
I F C CO-ED BUREAU

Thoughts while studying: Why are the Thespian keys so large? They look like high school track medals. . . Couldn't the Military Ball be held in the Army? The women colonels wouldn't get lost in the wings. Who dropped the bottle? . . . He was the Lone Eagle. Why are Dollar Days popular? . . . How come so many fires over the week-end? Why is it so cold? Who is Paul S. Williams '30? Who is . . .
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NEXT TO THE MOVIES

MORSE POINTS OUT VALUE OF FACULTY CUT INVESTIGATION

Secretary to President Claims Senate Could Base Action On Committee Work

SUGGESTS PLAN TRIAL IN SINGLE DEPARTMENT

System Needs Student, Faculty Aid—Tschan To Announce Group for Probe

Following announcement of the proposed investigation by faculty members of the unlimited cuts problem, Arthur O. Morse, executive secretary to the President, pointed out that results of their survey could be used as a basis for Senate action. If the system is found advisable, some member of the investigating committee could submit its findings to the College governing board for action, the President's assistant reports. He also believes that a plan might be given trial in one department.

Giving his personal opinion on the project, Mr. Morse declared: "There seems to be some merit in the suggestion that certain students be allowed an unlimited number of cuts. How to determine who should be allowed this privilege is a question to be answered by those in close touch with the class room."

A Trial In One Department
Although unfamiliar as yet with class room conditions at Penn State, the executive secretary voiced the belief that a plan allowing each student an exact number of cuts each term would fail. He was highly commensurate of the faculty's movement to probe the situation here.

The speaker continued with the thought that a system could first be given a trial by an interested department. If it proved successful, other groups could put the plan into operation later.

Mr. Morse also added: "If a change is to be made in the cut system, it is important that the

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Robert J. Miller

plan attempted have the support of most students and faculty. There is no method good enough to succeed without whole-hearted support."

He stated that advocates of a change should try to work towards a plan receiving almost unanimous support and general approval. The faculty investigating group will be announced later this week by Dr. Francis J. Tschan, president of the group sponsoring the survey.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

"LOAFER IS BIGGEST PROBLEM OF FRATERNITY," SAYS DEAN

"The loafer is the man who stays in college only a short time, but during that time he is the biggest problem the fraternity has to deal with," said the Thomas Arkle Clark, dean of men at the University of Illinois, in a recent address.

He said further that his advice to fraternities was to exercise greater care in the selection of pledges.

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WEDNESDAY—
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Talking, Singing, Dancing, Comedy-Drama

THURSDAY—
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FRIDAY—
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George M. Cohan Comedy

FRIDAY—
Irene Bordoni in "PARIS"
J. Harold Murray, Norma Terris, Stepan Fetchit in "CAMLO KIRBY"
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