

Letter Box

(Continued from second page)

side shown them when they are pledged. The English instructor evidently assumes that by the end of the first semester a wide awake freshman will not have some chance for improvement in his house. If he doesn't, then the house must be perfect or the freshman is not very observant. Also the instructor is on the lookout for "deficient" houses. He has already found one which is fairly so. The Greek letter boys shouldn't take this too seriously. There are bound to be one or two such uninteresting places in a college of this size. But in all seriousness, we feel that we should protest against any suggestion of an infringement on the right of free and open criticism of things that mean so much to Penn State. Would the college be better off if the administration should decide that Penn State is beyond criticism, and that the mere suggestion of improvement would be sacrilegious in its implication? Fraternities, are such a vital part of our college system at present that we cannot avoid thinking about their merits and demerits. If English instructors are to be called on the proverbial carpet in the Col-

LEGIAN, then why under the sun should anyone object to a consideration of other college problems? The fraternity idea is good but like every other human institution there is a chance for improvement. However, there will be no improvement so long as seniors refuse to admit that there is anything wrong.

(Signed) J. W. COLEMAN '29

Editor, Penn State COLLEGIAN, Dear Sir: Fraternities must evidently be in a sorry state when they need defending. There are some, especially those wishing to keep their individuality in tact, who might resent the complacent attitude of "A Senior," whose letter was obviously in defense of "senior-looking freshmen." It is satisfying to think that the rebellious eloquence of critical professors is not altogether in vain. Are Penn State students to remain forever smug and satisfied unless some thinking instructors rouse them out of their secure torpor? Radical criticism doubtlessly would be considered "tommy-tot" where students are prone to accept the meeters of their fraternal predecessors. It seems that "A Senior" (unfortunately, either modestly or some "phobia" complex conceals the name), after having spent four years in a supposedly in-

tellectual atmosphere, ought to offer more enlightening criticism of the college staff. As it is, we are not liberal enough indeed, too content with the sound of our tumultuous brass. It should be the privilege of everyone to criticize, even though a sprinkling of "radicalism" may untuffe the calm surface of things. One might think it futile to proceed any further with the discussion, since it seems hopeless to shout in ears already horrified-stricken with the blasphemous word "liberal." One would rather listen to the meplatitudes of "sound, constructive criticism."

J. L. GRUCCI

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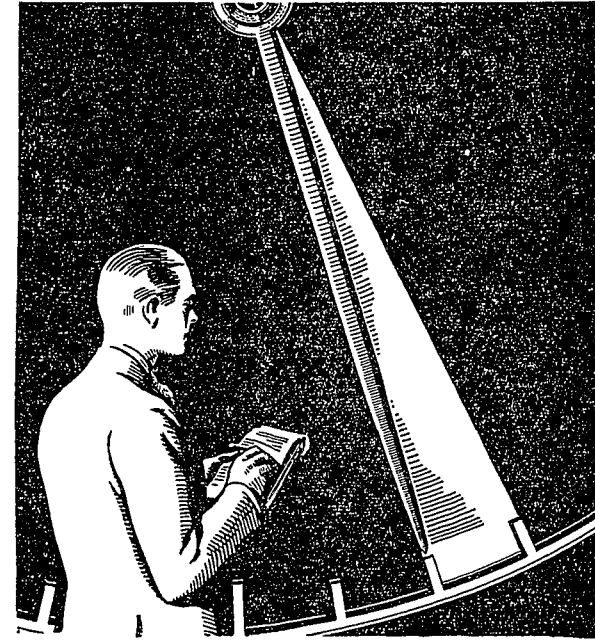
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