

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1932

THIS MATTER OF MARKS

It's hard to prove that marks are not necessary in a college like this. It's practically impossible. Where five thousand students are being rated in from five to ten courses for two semesters every year, that fine sentiment of thorough understanding of each man by every professor—and the administration—looks rosy and far distant. From the practical viewpoint, then, marks are rather necessary and totally convenient.

But from this simple fact of the necessity of marks grows a splendid confusion of interpretations. To one professor, a 3 means perfection, total and absolute, so a 3 is not for mortal hands to touch. To another teacher, a 2 is a red apple for being a good boy. One dean believes that all students should be rated mechanically on a frequency scale, when next door another dean thinks that, if improvement is shown and the man's cultural interest is quickened education has then set in and success is achieved by the teacher. Thus both the individual marks and the grading system in its entirety are looked upon differently by the teacher and the administrators—with the students, by the way, no exception.

Now if inter-school, inter-class, inter-fraternity, and inter-person comparisons are to be made, and they will inevitably be made if there is such an easy basis as a common grading system, then there should be some universal understanding.

As matters stand, the grades of the Chemistry and Physics school are noised about in unfavorable comparison with the grades of other schools on the campus. Now, as a matter of fact, this school sets its standards with an eye to what the other schools of its type in the country are accomplishing, not with regard to what the Engineering School or any other here happens to be doing. So it is with the other departments and divisions on the campus. They don't figure in terms of what other outfits on the grounds here are doing, but they stack themselves up against the schools whose graduates will compete with local products. That is good, but comparisons under these conditions are not good.

If this thing is to be cleared up at all, one of two directions must be taken. Either it must be recognized that the schools and their sub-divisions vary widely in making, aims and practices, thus not inviting comparison, or a real standard common to every individual and every department must be attained.

With untold numbers of couples packing the Recreation Hall Friday night, one of the most successful dances from the standpoint of sheet numbers passed on into the social record of the College. The crowded situation, where only up and down movement was permitted with any degree of comfort, must inevitably point to the exclusion of some of the fraternity members. As usual the advantage, although arbitrarily, falls on the underclassmen.

GIMCRACKS

More and more students flock to college uncertain as to just what their life work will be. It is only right that they should come and sample the various offerings which the institution holds out to them. But sometime a decision must be made. Then comes the storm.

The extension of the Education School's psychometric to include vocational guidance marks a move toward the vision of Student Council expressed in a recent recommendation for a full-time staff member who would advise students facing such problems.

However, the method for determining the adaptability of individuals, and deciding how they should be advised common to the educational world, which relies on aptitude and intelligence tests, seems to be unwarranted in determining a student's occupation-to-be. In guidance of this type there can be no better method than friendly, confidential interview. Regardless of the proved reliability of tests, themselves a moot question among professional educators, there can be no excuse for wasting time in futile analysis.

That an individual's vocational ability can be sized up in tests and mathematical computations is to make a mockery of the human mind and capability. The good old fashioned, even call it unscientific, "father and son" chat can accomplish more good for mutual understanding and problem solution than a world of charts and educational gimcracks.

CAMPUSEER

BY HIMSELF

We were intensely gratified to hear that the Hon. Gov. and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot were again among the guests of honor at our IF Ball. And if the Hon. Gov. had tried to crash the dance, he would probably have been ejected by one of the Lifted Eyebrows at the door. Sometime we're going to ask him for his invitation to one of these affairs.

Maybe you got these after the favors were gone, too. They really were pretty nice, one of the dance committee members told us. Something like the little memo pads that you can buy at the five and dime at standard prices. The dates in the thing, however, start the day after the Ball and extend to April 8, next year. All of which is very much all right, since it will eliminate the necessity of appointing a committee for the 1933 brawl. They'll have to have the same kind of favors, since nobody is going to stand by and see his calendar run out in the middle of the year. And they'll have to run the dance on the same date, since having it earlier would cause duplication of plant, and having it later would be leaving us without memo pads for a while, which would be pretty terrible.

A good many shattered ideals fell out in the aisles at the Bull Pen the other night during one of the recent Beasley Lectures. One Mister Davey, of the Chemistry and Elimination School, has long been recognized as one of Penn State's anti-cribbingest professors. Yet the reputation of years crashed, and hundreds of pre-meds went away highly edified but pitifully surprised after seeing the eminent Doctor in his own weak moment. He actually peeked over the shoulder of a neighbor (Dean Whitmore, if you must know) and copied three whole paragraphs of notes in full view of the wide-eyed students. His semper professorship.

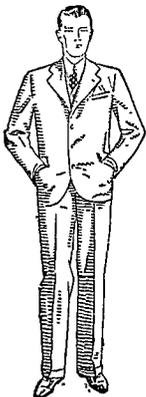
Our import used to cause us no end of trouble, falling in love with uniforms. She would heave a deep sigh every time she passed within twenty miles of Annapolis. Armistice Day parades and American Legion conventions used to get her quite out of hand. But that's all over now. She saw a Campus Cop.

Or the back of the Angle Room's had news eat us for the past few days has been something that annoyed us pretty much. Under a heading of "Afternoon Tea Suggestions" they had Liverwurst on rye and Bee', adding that same was recommended by a Distinguished Visitor. We were beginning to get suspicious of the whole thing after several waitresses had looked mysterious (I think it was mysterious) when asked who was the guy. Mr. Corner finally broke down under the fire, however, and confessed that the suggester was a former salesman of liquorous beverages, who was now pretty much of a major explosion in a Cleveland department store.

While we sat in the classroom Saturday morning with glazed eyes, heavy lids, a thriving corn crop, and a Wall Street slump, a bunch of co-eds was heaving a play-ground baseball around outside. They gambled about with peals of merry laughter that almost broke our heart. Irrational madness beat at the heavy oak doors of our reason. There we were, looking like a picture in one of those pamphlets the Anti-Saloon League used to send around before the Wets took up crusading in a big way. And there they were, in white shirts and black pants, giving an impression that the Ball had been nothing but a setting-up exercise. It was all very bitter, and left us with the conviction that there are some people who would enjoy a swim the day after they had been rescued from a shipwreck.

Co-ed in fun coat gives funny look to other co-ed in white spring outfit. Miss Hazleton was in town over the week-end.

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MONTGOMERY'S PAUL A. MITTEN, Manager

14 SCHOOLS PLACE IN MUSIC CONTEST

State College Band Gains First Award Friday—Will Enter Pittsburgh Finals

Fourteen schools won the right to enter the State finals of the high school music contest at Pittsburgh by taking first places in the district competition held here Friday.

In the major events scheduled, State College high school took first place in band competition, while Westmount-Upper Yoder high school, competing in the class B group, was declared the district winner of the orchestra contest. The Yeagerstown school orchestra won in the class C group.

1,100 Participate

Dale high school, at Johnstown, was awarded the class C district title in both the Girls' and Boys' chorus contest. First place in the class C mixed chorus contest was gained by Cooper Township high school, Clearfield county, while Dubois took first place in class B Boys' chorus competition and Tyrone was awarded first place in the Girls' class B chorus contest.

First place in the string quartet competition went to Westmount-Upper Yoder. Dale high school again emerged victor in the contest for small instrumental ensembles. First awards in both vocal and instrumental solo competition were awarded to representatives of schools scattered over the entire district.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forensic League, the contest attracted approximately fourteen hundred entrants from this section of the State. Director Richard W. Grant and Prof. Hummel Fishburn, of the music department were in charge of the affair, with music students and members of the faculty acting as judges.

AWARDED YALE FELLOWSHIPS

Prof. Harold J. Lutz and Walter U. Garska, of the forestry department, have been awarded Charles Lathrop Pack fellowships for study at the Yale Forestry School next year, it was announced recently.

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WPSC SCHEDULE Today: 11:15-Washington Bicentenary talk on "Colonial Art" Tomorrow: 11:15-Agricultural News Notes Thursday: 11:15-Talk prepared by Dr. Frank W. Hildbrand on "Why We Have Flemish-Frisian"

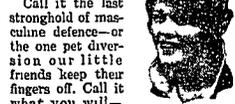
CO-ED FRATERNITY LEADERS NAMED FOR 1932-33 COUNCIL

Next year's members of the Fraternity Presidents' council, advisory board of women's fraternities, will be Helen A. Hoover, Chi Omega, Marion P. Howell, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Elizabeth M. Kahl, Delta Gamma. Other representatives include Isabel McFarland, Kappa Alpha Theta, Helen L. Martin, Phi Mu, and Elsa L. Ottinger, Alpha Chi Omega. A. Elizabeth Preston, Alpha Omicron Pi, Charlotte L. Sommers, Lambda Phi, and Mary M. Westwick, Theta Pi Alpha, complete the list.

SCARAB ELECTIONS (Honorary Architectural) John S. Urban '32 Edwin A. Bloxman '33 Wiley L. Byers '33 Ross B. Davis, Jr. '33 Charles B. Forbes '33 Eugene D. Hegarty '33 Chrusy P. Hildebrandt '33 Samuel D. Kaufman '31 Frank A. Kendall '33 C. W. Law '33 Howard P. Lohrke '33 Robert W. Pierson '33

Let's smoke a MAN'S SMOKE!

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Co-ed Groups Excel In Grades, Ray Says

(Continued from page one)

ter, only three were in this group scholastically at the end of the second semester last year. Likewise, only six out of the first ten in the present rating were in the first ten the previous semester.

Radical shifts downward in fraternity standing are a result of the graduation of a good senior class of the acquisition of poor freshman class, Dean Warnock pointed out.

Accounting for the scholastic superiority of women students over men, Dean Ray said that the co-ed enrollment, which is limited by lack of dormitory space and other factors, is restricted, for the most part, to those women who were in the upper fifth of their high school classes.

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This year these student group tours will be offered at 40% reduction from standard passenger rates, between June 1 and September 1. For example, this discount brings air trips from Miami to Havana down to \$16.80. From our Texas terminal to Mexico City, \$36.00. From Miami to Panama, with overnight stop at Jamaica, luncheon stops in Cuba and Colombia, only \$108. Same student reductions to any point on our lines. If you feel that you have the personality, the social position and collegiate standing to qualify as representative of our company on the campus, write immediately. Please give full particulars as to your personal qualifications and responsibility. Address: Mr. V. E. Chentso, General Traffic Manager, Pan American Airways System, 122 East 42d Street, New York, N. Y.

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