

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1933

THE FRATERNITY AND SANITY

The fraternity is one of the most serious problems confronting the freshman during his entire four years here. Rushing season and the subsequent pledging can probably do more than any single thing to throw the freshman off balance. The man with a large number of fraternities on his date card is apt to look upon himself as a superior person, and on his less fortunate classmates as a lower species. The freshman from the modest home is overwhelmed by the splendor of large houses, and is prone to acquire a false set of values. And almost every freshman who pledges will believe that he has been accorded a great honor by being permitted to join that group which may boast of a star athlete, a class president, or some other campus luminary.

But more profoundly affected than any of these is the freshman who is not even rushed, or if he is rushed, does not receive a bid. The mortification suffered by such a freshman is often painful and tends to breed an inferiority complex. He is inclined to feel that he is seriously lacking in some way. However true this may be in some instances, it is more often the case that he is lacking in the personal glitter which is the most important asset for a rushing season. The pangs of the unpledged would be greatly alleviated, and the superior attitude of the men with pledge pins on their lapels would be greatly deflated, if they realized the true position of a social fraternity on a college campus. It is not an honor society and membership is not usually a reward for superior attainments. The lottery of a rushing season makes it farcial for any fraternity to assert that it has secured just the group it wants, and that it has chosen its pledges carefully on the basis of good and bad qualities.

The present-day fraternity, whatever may have been its purposes when it was founded, is little more than a social club of college men, or women, who have found it more convenient and enjoyable to live in that manner than in any other way. The honor of belonging to this or that social group is of no deeper significance than the honor of walking down the street with the "big shot" of the campus. At best, it is a reflected honor in which the freshman pledge may bask. To be sure, it is often a delightful and satisfying honor, but not one based on bedrock. The sooner pledged and unpledged freshmen realize this fact, the sooner will a democratic and sane attitude be reached.

ONE IN A MILLION

The first week of College is for the average freshman the most exciting period during the entire four years. Here is a round of activities that sweeps him off his feet. There are tests, mass meetings, conferences, and all sorts of things on the regular Freshman Week program, and besides those, fraternity rushing. The effect is to make the freshman feel very small and insignificant at times; and at other times very important and bloated.

With 1,249 others like him, the first response of the freshman upon arriving at College is likely to be one of mingled emotions. For many, the breaking of home ties may seem the most difficult of adjustment. Here he is "one in a million" and there is no family to fall back on. Too, he may experience a sudden deflation. He may have been the senior class president or the football captain in high or preparatory school, but here he is "just another freshman." He is no longer the one to whom inferiors may look up. The tables are turned; he is the one who gazes in awe at the campus celebrities. The descent is sudden and often painful—that is, until the fraternities start their rushing.

Then the average freshman is quite a different fellow. However insignificant he may have felt the first two or three days, he begins to think that he is really important. With three or four, or seven or eight fraternities striving violently for his affections, he can hardly be blamed for his high opinion of himself. Wiser days will come, however, and it is part of the freshman's education to discover that.

In the midst of all this fraternity rushing, there is one thing the freshman should not neglect. Some fraternity men, wishing for a little longer time with the freshman, will tell him that this or that meeting on his Freshman Week schedule is of no importance and that there is no harm in cutting it. On the contrary, the events scheduled during Freshman Week are of importance. They have been put there for a purpose. They help the freshman to become accustomed to his new surroundings quickly and acquaint him with College customs and methods. Each freshman will do well to attend all the meetings listed on his schedule.

Do You Know . . .

That the original Old Main building was condemned and torn down in 1929 and that the present structure, completed the next year, was built from many of the same old stones?

That the former Old Main building housed the entire College in 1859 and that it was used until 1886 for dormitories, professors' rooms, classrooms, and administrative offices?

That the tradition of the Old Willow tree dates back to the time when a professor planted it in memory of earlier days? The original tree was blown down in a wind storm and a cutting was planted in 1921. It now grows near the drinking fountain on the main campus walk.

That the permission of the president of the College as well as the approval of the Dean of Women was the red tape gone through for securing a date with a Penn State co-ed back in the '70's?

That the polyolith in front of the Armory was erected in 1898 and contains all the specimens of known building stone found in Pennsylvania?

That it has been estimated that over 100,000 blue books are used by students for examinations during each school year?

That Penn State athletes represented the United States in the last four Olympic games?

That a Penn State football team was once selected to represent the East in the annual New Year's Day gridiron classic at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California?

That the first student to enroll in the College is now living as a retired physician on a farm in Arkansas?

That a Penn State alumnus helped Empress Eugenie of France escape from Paris during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870?

That hiking was chosen as the most popular sport by the Penn State faculty in a recent questionnaire?

That there is a case of historical materials pertaining to the College on the second floor of the Carnegie library which, among other things, includes a Lincoln signature, seals of the College, and candlesticks which were used in the original Old Main?

That the Nittany Lion, symbol of Penn State's athletic prowess, was launched at Princeton University in 1906 on the occasion of a baseball game when a Penn State student in a flash of repartee said that nothing but a Pennsylvania mountain lion could stand before a Bengal tiger?

That nearly 50,000 towels are needed each year by athletes and physical education students, according to the locker room attendant at Recreation Hall?

That campus politics are run with the same organization as exists in national politics, parties and all?

That all indoor athletic meets were held in the Armory until the completion of Recreation hall in 1929?

That commencement exercises used to be held in the Schwab auditorium until the graduating classes became too large?

That rushing among the women's social fraternities is not carried on until the sophomore year?

That seven of the trees on the front campus are dedicated to Penn State men who lost their lives in the World War? Likewise, the bronze plaque in the first floor lounge of Old Main is dedicated to those men.

That English composition was rated by prominent Penn State alumni as the most important single College subject?

That McAllister hall, now a women's dormitory, once was a men's living quarters?

That many of the streets in State College are named after former presidents of the College?

Customs Mould Activities Of Freshmen on Campus

College customs at Penn State are practices which have been handed down from class to class and have now become established traditions. Originating from various sources, these practices have become ingrained in student life and undergo constant changes.

Prominent among old Penn State traditions is the custom of exchanging cordial "Hello's" with other students on the campus. Every student also greets the president of the College in this manner with a tip of the hat or civilian salute.

Smoking on the campus is confined to places outside of classrooms, laboratories, and Recreation hall. Penn State men conduct themselves like gentlemen and sportsmen at all athletic events and await the singing of the Alma Mater at the close of the game.

Pasting or painting of stickers or seals bearing Penn State insignia does not receive the approval of correct usage. It is needless to say that there are far superior ways in which to distinguish one's self as a Penn State man.

Two freshman customs were reinstated, one added, and two removed as a result of a customs revision made by Student Council last May. No sophomore restrictions remain because of their removal three years ago.

Freshmen will not be allowed to smoke on the campus this year and must carry matches at all times except

in those periods designated as holidays. Jackets may be worn by freshmen in place of the usual coat, the Council also ruled.

The restriction requiring freshmen to stay off the front campus walk has been removed from the list. This year freshmen will be required to occupy the east stands at New Beaver field athletic meets and the balcony in Recreation hall.

The remaining freshman customs are as follows:

1. Do not walk across the grass on the campus.
2. A coat or jacket must be worn in public at all times.
3. Always wear your dink, black socks, and black tie, except on trips, on holidays, and on Sundays, or when entertaining mothers or sisters, or when escorting young women at times of house parties and house dances.
4. Wear a regulation card with your name and preparatory or high school printed on it in large letters. Do not appear without it during the first two weeks at College.
5. Do not fail to attend class meetings, athletic events, or mass meetings. Do not leave such events until excused by proper authority.
6. Do not keep your hands in your pockets at any time.
7. Do not enter the South Liberal Arts building by the front entrance. Use the rear entrance in entering the North Liberal Arts building.

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For twenty-eight years we have been selling College Boys up-to-date Men's Furnishings and Clothing.

If this is your first year at Penn State, we invite you to visit our store.

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SAUER'S
NEXT TO THE CORNER ROOM ON ALLEN STREET

The Tap Room
hofbrau

eat your meals
on an open porch

25c 35c 50c

OFFICIAL
Campus Publications

Penn State Collegian
(Semi-weekly Newspaper)

Penn State Froth
(Monthly Comic Magazine)

Old Main Bell
(Quarterly Literary Magazine)

Penn State Engineer
(Monthly Engineering Periodical)

Penn State Farmer
(Monthly Agricultural Journal)

GET YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS DURING FRESHMAN WEEK

Indigestion



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Men's Wearing Apparel
for
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