

**PENN STATE COLLEGIAN**

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**FRESHMEN—FRATERNITIES**

The first few weeks of college undoubtedly represent the greatest period of transition in a young person's life. Cut off from the influences and habits of home for the first time, the freshman finds himself in a whirl of an entirely different life. The mode and tempo are entirely changed, with individual initiative replacing the supervision of former years.

Probably one of the most unique institutions which the freshman will encounter, and one with which he has had no previous encounter, is the Fraternity. Its presents will be all too quickly thrust before him, when date cards and the other paraphernalia of rushing season are distributed at the first meeting of Freshman Week.

Rushing will swing into its high speed action at once. The freshmen will be taken to the houses and presented with a picture which will nodoubt awe the average man coming to Penn State. The fraternity houses on this campus rank as well as those on almost any campus. There is no doubt that they far surpass the homes of nearly every freshman.

As in years past, a certain number of social aspirants will come determined to establish themselves in the best possible house, while others will already have an introduction to some fraternity through a relative or acquaintance.

The average freshman will face the situation with an open mind and a charming ignorance of what it is all about. He will speedily discover that undoubtedly there are certain advantages to be derived from living in a fraternity house. There is no denying that it is far more comfortable than the hall bedroom with the inevitable double decker and two desks. On the other hand, the financial side must be carefully considered. It is far better that a student live a bit more simply and complete his course than live like the proverbial King for two years or so and then be forced to draw out because of lack of resources to continue.

But by far the most important things are the personalities and characteristics of the men one encounters in the different houses. There is nothing more pleasing than to fit nicely into a group whose ideals and aims coincide with yours, and there is nothing more jarring to the nerves and attitude of a student than being thrown into daily contact with those who have an entirely different temperament. With this thought in mind, freshmen should go into rushing season with open eyes which smoothness and glitter will not deceive.

**ACTIVITIES AND SANITY**

As the freshman man or woman embarks upon a college career, he or she must soon arrive at a decision as to what, if any, extra-curricular activities he wishes to follow. To some, no debate is necessary. Athletes, musicians, and dramatic devotees will gravitate to their natural spheres almost automatically.

Others, less fortunate, will find a hodge-podge of opportunities lying before them. Managerships, publications, and politics will present their varied appeals to the new students.

Especially during rushing season will keys and hats be flaunted before the admiring eyes of prospective fraternity brothers. The freshman will more than once be impressed with the importance of some campus personage. He will be told by an enthusiastic rushing committee that to shake the hand of a manager is no less than a complimentary ticket to Mount Olympus.

However, a sane attitude toward activities should be cultivated. College is a place where one comes to learn, and there are many places other than classrooms where the learning process is engendered. Through activities, one enters fields of experience that are highly valuable.

Here the student makes contacts in lines other than the rather narrow one which he will follow during his four years here. He will have the chance to gauge his abilities in competition which is probably as keen as any he will ever meet. The knowledge that one can hold his own is probably one of the greatest compensations that two or three years of hard work bring.

A sane attitude should be maintained, concerning activities. After all, they are merely a sideline in the business of getting an education. While important, they are not the most important. A well-rounded career should be the objective, but colleges are maintained primarily for study.

**OLD MANIA**

Hyuh!

So in spite of the predictions of the 1934 graduates, the hard-worked summer session profs., and the New Deal administrators who predicted prosperity by the end of it, summer finally seems to be gradually on the wane; people, worn and torn by the strife of vacation relaxation are already seeping back into town, sinking wearily into booths and murmuring, "How's summer, palsie . . . naw, I didn't work, just sat aroun'."

Yeh, 'tis nice to be back, now we can really get some sleep.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Drayma, With a Hero, even**

It was way back in history, just after the last-years' seniors had become job-hunters that we heard of this little drama. It happened, as so many things seem to have a habit of doing, in the Angle Eatery. Ridge Riley, gradually getting bulky local '32 graduate, who has been around this locale for quite some time now, was the hero. Seein' as how you've been away too, we'll go into detail.

Ridgely was on his way to the First National with some filthy lucre and, of course, passed along College avenue. His passage was noted by three transient autoists (feminine, and rather all right), one of whom breathed tenderly, gazing upon the Riley form as it swung jauntily by the widow, "My, what a nice place to spend a vacation this must be."

Our favorite waitress told ex-COLLEGIAN editor Riley about it. But he wasn't flustered. "Just one of those things," he muttered into his coffee.

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**Rugged**

If the United Press, rather well known news service and the officials of the Scottish soccer competition can be relied upon for their accuracy, the Penn State soccer team, which travelled to the heathered hills this summer, can really stand up under punishment.

We aren't referring to athletic prowess. When we last were forced into reading a newspaper, the team wasn't doing so well. However, the Blue and White booters, as this sheet's sports writing ace's love to say, have qualities that leave mere athletic skill far in the background. For proof, wade on.

The boys went to Scotland on a steamship appropriately enough labelled The Caledonia, and it was a nice boat. However, it wasn't a nice crossing; the ocean got temperamental and kicked the poor tub all over the Atlantic. Life boats went by the board, people slid around on deck and got legs (pardon us, limbs broken, and altogether it was quite a mess. But the Penn State Soccer Team came through with flying colors. Not one of them, we understand, even got even a slight attack of *mal de mer* (seasickness to you). Bill Jeffrey, coach extraordinary, is quite proud of this record. "It's unusual," he thinks.

We think so too.

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**Shattered!**

We used to have illusions. Eagerly everyday we used to search the newspaper for some allusion to one of our heroes. Every story about a national big shot was something that had to be perused to the bitter end. But no more.

The Philadelphia Bulletin served to end forever for us any semblance hero-worship. And it was done casually, too, through a picture of a guy on a motorcycle, equipped with goggles and everything. (The guy, not the motorcycle). It was a nice picture, although the rider didn't seem to be getting anywhere very fast. But the caption it was that really blasted our dreams: to wit.

"He couldn't even fly an airplane when this photo was taken. Charles A. Lindbergh is shown as he looked in 1921, just after he had ridden his motorcycle from Chicago to Louisville, Kentucky, in 24 hours, to join the R. O. T. C."

**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 Polyith in front of the Armory was erected in 1896 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 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?

**Scholarships, Loans Aid Worthy Students**

Thirty-nine scholarships, in addition to the State senatorial awards, and eight loan funds of various kinds are available for deserving students in the College this year, according to the general catalogue.

Efforts are being made to distribute these funds to those students who are most deserving. Each scholarship is listed in the College catalogue with the requisites for obtaining it. In addition, eleven prizes will be awarded during the College year.

Information concerning any of these awards is usually obtained from the office of the Dean of Men or the Dean of Women. Applications, however, have again exceeded the available funds this year, according to the reports.

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