

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN
Successor to The Free Lance, established 1887

Published semi-weekly during the College year, except on holidays, by students of The Pennsylvania State College, in the interest of the College, the students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

Applied for entry as second class matter at the State College Post Office, State College, Pa.

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Tuesday, October 1, 1935

507 PLEDGES

Last Monday 507 men, mostly freshmen, were pledged to the fifty-two social and professional fraternities on this campus. A year ago, 568 men pledged at the close of rushing season. Thus, roughly, the decrease in the number of men pledged was sixty. Of course, since last Monday more men have been talked into pledging. It is very improbable, however, that the total number of men pledged since that time will equal sixty.

It is most strange that the year the largest class ever to enter here fewer men than ever pledge to fraternities whose number has dwindled yearly. To try to analyze the reasons for this slight but rather indicative decrease is a most difficult task.

Probably the biggest factor in keeping men from joining this year was of a financial nature. More and more freshmen are coming to college this year on the well-known "shoe-string." Then, too, a large number of these cautious freshmen did not come here directly from high school, many of them having worked several years to earn at least enough money to get them started here. The fact that they have remained out of school, perhaps most of the time doing odd jobs and looking for work, has undoubtedly enabled them to see the artificiality of college in general and movie-set fraternity houses in particular.

The handshake of an athlete, a manager, or a hat-man seems to have had little effect upon the logic and common sense of this freshman class. Houses totally lacking in campus "big-shots" made out as well, if not better, as houses polluted with key-men and politicians. Only the freshmen with rabid-rabid perspectives of collegial campus "smoothies" with 124 pleats in their coats-backs, now stand in awe of the "big-shots."

Rumors are now afoot that several houses which failed to get a suitable number of men are considering giving up their charter. It is unfortunate if that is the case. Fraternities in the more formative period of American colleges and universities played a great part in building them up to their present size and accommodations. Certainly that is true here.

However, indications all over the United States, as well as here, show that fraternities are starting to slip. At several large eastern universities they have been wiped out of existence and at many other colleges their power, prestige, and usefulness is slowly dwindling away.

Ten years is not a long time. But the COLLEGIAN predicts that ten years from now the fraternities on this campus will have decreased from fifty-two to fifteen. It will not take the building of dormitories here to do it, either.

The present attitude of a great many men, who as juniors and seniors, move out of their fraternities, will be the biggest factor in this change. Another factor will be the housing situation which, at present, as everyone knows, is bad; the town is sadly under-built. However, this condition will not go on forever. Some business man will rake up enough money to build several large apartment houses with reasonable rentals where students can live cheaply. And then, too, the dormitories may be built in that time. The fraternities' loss of prestige will be the third factor.

THE PENN STATE CLUB

For years the Penn State Club has been a disorganized organization of non-fraternity men. But now, under the leadership of Wesley L. Mohrkern '36, it has been whipped into something like the organization which it should be.

The Penn State Club is an effort to organize the men who have not joined fraternities and to provide for them the many advantages of social and group activity. It is an effort to bring together the hundreds of non-fraternity men who live in the countless rooming houses scattered all over town and to give them some social activity, aside from the local "hang-outs" and trips to nearby towns.

Present plans include the organization, through the club, of group athletics for competition in the intramural sports, frequent get-togethers, and an all-College dance. At the first meeting, which will be held in the Old Main Sandwich Shop at 8:15 o'clock Saturday night, Coaches Robert A. Higgins and Herman A. Everhardus will review and analyze the Lebanon Valley football game.

The organization of the Penn State Club upon this scale, and with the idea in mind of being social, rather than political, will fulfill a need long felt here by non-fraternity men and the College administration.

OLD MANIA

ONE OF THE MOST sweetly sentimental tales that has come to these aging ears in some time concerns the president of the W. S. G. A., women's news editor of this paper, pride of the Theta house, and epitome of the Penn State Co-ed, Fran Turner. It is now very untimely, the action having taken place a week ago Saturday, but the sentiment is still there.

Those of you who read the Cinemania column to be found elsewhere in this sheet do not need to be told that the movie, "Annapolis Farewell," was filmed on the campus (if that's the right word) of the Naval Academy. Now it so happens that the love interest in Miss Turner's life may be found there on the grounds; he is, in short, a midshipman.

So it is hardly a coincidence that he should be in the picture. His name was not to be found among the cast of characters; he was not on the production staff; he was listed merely among the "midshipmen loaned through the courtesy of the U. S. N. A." And he might be glimpsed for just a few seconds in one of the shots where gobs were to be seen marching.

But that was enough for our Fran. She was going to see that picture. And see it she did. For two shows in the afternoon, and again for two shows in the evening. When life seems hard and callous, we find it comforting to conjure up a picture of her sitting there in the darkened theatre, the famous Penn State smile a trifle wistful, perhaps; sitting there waiting through long Hollywood drama for that one brief moment when she might get a glimpse of him.

It is one of life's minor tragedies that "Annapolis Farewell" played here "SATURDAY ONLY."

The Campbells Are Coming

Joyce
Comforts-boycce.

We were sitting down in Rea and Derick's the other day gulping our usual swiss chocolate almond sundae (adv) when spies brought us reports of an amateur Tribunal that met last week.

One night last week—Monday, we think it was—Tribunal met in a room on the third floor of Old Main to hear the cases of freshmen and transfers who wished to be excused from customs.

Jim Dugan, Harry Springer, George Morris, and Lute Luttringer happened to be in the Froth office on the same floor, and, seeing these milling hordes of freshmen waiting for Tribunal to convene, made big signs saying "Tribunal meeting will be held in Room 315." (That being the Bell office.)

They soon had the hordes horning around their door. They organized a hasty courtroom, and started hearing cases. Dugan was judge, Morris and Luttringer took down the proceedings on typewriters, and Springer acted as clerk. It was, on the whole, a very orderly picture and did justice to the dignity of Tribunal. And every case they debated seemed to have some merit—at least they let every one off.

So the following boys who were "exempted" will have to go back and try it again. It was all a gag. Here they are: Frank Kammer, Henry Vlossak, Henry Malachowski, Francis Megrail, and Frank Babiarz.

Depression Note

Bob Hanawalt and Phil Hines, D. U.'s a few years back, are both working. Bob is employed in a cheese factory at Belleville. His hours are from 9 to 5.

Phil, sometime best dressed man, is delivering milk in Allentown. He works from 4 in the morning until 2.

The freshman who stands next to Johnny Louden in Rotissie asked him the other day: "Say, buddy, what poutoon are we in? . . . Govier and Tonks were pretty funny Saturday night." —THE MANIAC

Tryouts for Thespian Technical Staff Called

Tryouts for the technical staff of the Thespians will be conducted in the Little Theatre, Old Main, tonight at 7:30 o'clock according to an announcement made by J. Ewing Kennedy, director.

All students interested in stage management, electrical and costume work, make-up, design, or advertising work in connection with theatrical production should report for tryouts.

CINEMANIA

Greta Garbo, Fredric March, and Freddie Bartholomew head the capable cast which will bring "Anna Karenina," film dramatization of Tolstoy's immortal novel, to the Cathaum theatre on Wednesday. The film was directed by Clarence Brown and produced by David O. Selznick.

The story, which with you are probably familiar, concerns the tragic struggle of Anna Karenina for happiness through her great love for the young and handsome Vronsky (Fredric March), whom she meets while on a trip with his mother, the Countess Vronsky, played by May Robson.

A fatalistic note is introduced early in the picture, when the first meeting of Anna and Vronsky is marred by the death of a workman who falls between two cars before the railroad station where the two are talking. Anna interprets this as an ill omen.

As the lovely young wife of a steady government clerk, Anna is faced with the problem of denying her love for Vronsky or giving up her home and her beloved son Sergei. After a month of determination not to see Vronsky again, she goes to him and he takes her away. They are supremely happy in their love, but Anna's premonition that they will be punished persists. They finally return to Russia, where Vronsky growing restless in their enforced isolation from society, impulsively joins the Russian forces in a war against the Turks.

From this point the story sweeps into a magnificent climax which finds Anna at the same station where she first saw her lover and where she now sees his train leaving for the wars. The emotional struggle which ensues is highly moving in the intensity that Garbo has given it.

Freddie Bartholomew, of "David Copperfield" fame, gives an intelligent performance as Sergei, Anna's son, and manages to steal several scenes from his stellar colleagues. Others in the cast include Basil Rathbone, very hateful as Karenin; Reginald Owen, Joan Marsh, and Cora Sue Collins, whom you may have seen last week as the young Kitty in "The Dark Angel."

"Anna Karenina" will be shown at the Nittany on Thursday.

The bill of fare seems to be unusually tempting this week. Following "Top Hat" and "Anna Karenina," comes "She Married Her Boss," with Claudette Colbert taking the letters and Melvyn Douglas doing the dictating.

Julia, the secretary, marries for the

Standing in The Wings

By J. EWING KENNEDY

"THE KID; HIMSELF"

The kid, himself, wrote the show and "THE KID; HIMSELF" was the title he gave it. He was six feet three, curly hair, and he was loaded to the guards with self-confidence and enthusiasm—but he was just a kid. Barnum was his hero and show business was the only thing that mattered. An accident to his leg gave him insufferable pain—couldn't sleep at night! So he wrote his first show and most of the music and lyrics to go with it.

Then he went to New York and tackled the biggest picture house chain in the business and came out with the job of assistant manager of one of their largest houses. The kid just smiled and said: "I went in to see the big boss and sold myself—that's the way Barnum would have done it." He was going places—and he did shortly—to Chattanooga as manager of a big theatre there.

Long, late hours put the kid in a sanitarium with TB—but he still had that confidence and enthusiasm. Set himself up an office and entered radio and magazine contests—and won. Netted about a hundred dollars a month for the three years that he was there. He came out a "negative case" and invaded Tin Pan Alley.

He clicked almost immediately with "THE BREEZE"—but the money was awfully slow. They only pay off every six months in the Alley. "WINTER WONDERLAND" was next, a terrific smash, then "WHEN A GYPSY MAKES HIS VIOLIN CRY," something for the violinists to get their teeth into, and finally "IT LOOKS LIKE AN EARLY FALL."

The Old Master called him in last Saturday night to write lyrics for that big song up there—and I know the kid will do it with plenty of confidence.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
The Kid—Richard B. (Chang) Smith

usual reasons: home, affection, and so on; but it develops—on the honeymoon—that the boss, being dyspeptic and afflicted with an unmanageable nine-year-old daughter by a former marriage, chose his mate for her superior efficiency, with no thought of romance.

Michael Bartlett arrives on the scene as Richard Barclay, a playboy-business man, and promptly falls in love with the heavy-hearted bride. The resultant complications are finally unwound without loss of the gay humor which has enlivened the whole film. If you raved about the lovely Miss Colbert in "It Happened One Night"—and everybody did—you'll want to see her in this; it's the same type of light comedy with just enough story to keep it sensible.

Co-Edits

Delta Gamma gave a tea in honor of Miss Louise Daniel, their chaperone. All chaperones were invited.

Four Delta Gammas, Tip Rees, Ann Bowers, Freddie Williams, and Peg McIntyre '34, went to Philadelphia over the week-end.

Gamma Phi Beta initiated three girls: Elizabeth J. Cook '36, Marian E. Francis '37, and Jean E. Keller '38. They also pledged three girls: Martha A. Barr '38, Ruth F. Glenn, a special student, and Patricia V.

Jonkus '38: A transfer from William and Mary College, Mable Hurst '38, was affiliated with the fraternity.

Mary Lou Shaner '34, an Alpha Chi Omega, returned for the week-end.

Kappa Alpha Theta extended social privileges to Betty E. Powers, a graduate last year of St. Lawrence University, who is taking graduate work here. She is chaperone at the Theta Phi Alpha house.

S. Christine Hoffer '38 was pledged to Kappa Alpha Theta at the formal pledging held Saturday, September 28.

Evenings at 6:30 and 8:30 **NITTANY** Last complete show at 9:10
A Warner Bros. Theatre

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY

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