

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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Friday, March 6, 1936

STATE'S VESTIGAL HAT SOCIETIES

Of all of the campus organizations that have apparently outlived their usefulness, the campus hat societies are probably the most glaring.

Time was when those societies performed more or less of a service to the College in seeing that customs were enforced; that there was no boozing or smoking in the gymnasium during athletic meets; that students were controlled in situations parallel to that of last Alumni Day.

However, with the passing of hazing and the slow death of customs, life in the organizations has dwindled to nothing. "Well," say the hat men, "what is there for us to do?" Now it is not hard to realize that the smoking and boozing in the gymnasium could be controlled by the hat societies. But, unfortunately, the average hat man has absorbed so much of the pseudo-sophistication typical of Penn State undergraduates, that he is prohibited from asking anyone to refrain from smoking or boozing in the hall by the fear that he will not be considered "smooth." And, believe it or not, that's the biggest factor in student life here.

The hat societies can no longer control a mob of students because they no longer have the respect of the student body. And just what the hat societies can do to win that respect is a difficult problem because students are no longer interested in respecting something belonging to the rah-rah era of bell-bottom pants.

Undoubtedly the worst feature about the hat societies is their rather barbaric initiation ceremonies, especially in the sophomore societies. To some rather heavy thinkers who joined these useless organizations, wearing the hat of their society says to every passerby, "I can take it." It really says, "I was a sucker, too."

The hat societies, if they wish to continue and to gain the respect of the student body, should put an end to their insane initiation practices, making the initiation a more formalized honor instead of a drunken brawl; and they should drop their smug attitude and perform a real service to Penn State by seeing that the boozing and smoking at athletic meets is stopped. Otherwise, they are slated for the fate which met Sphinx, an upperclass honorary, several years ago—disbandment.

(P. S.: I'm glad I'm a Skull and Bones member.—Ed.)

WAKE UP, ADMINISTRATION

The COLLEGIAN has for some time conducted a campaign against "Hell Week," and other forms of rough-house, now thinly disguised in some houses as "informal initiation." However, the end of what patience the COLLEGIAN has left with the fraternities who continue these activities disappeared Wednesday night when William E. Youngdahl '38 was seriously burned in the "Hell Week" activities of Alpha Zeta, professional agricultural society.

The fraternities of this college have enjoyed freedom from restriction by the administration for some time and in times when it has not been hard not to lay down restrictions. However, it is now apparent that the fraternities are not capable of handling themselves. The case of the abolition of "Hell Week" has dragged on and on for years and while there are times when progress seems to have been made, Wednesday night's incident, however, accidental it may have been, seems to justify the College administration in demanding that the fraternities cease such activities.

The COLLEGIAN has attempted to show the insanity and danger of "Hell Week" over a period of years. But from year to year the roughnecks and "he-men" in the fraternities have been strong enough to maintain this barbaric practice. It is apparent that continual editorial efforts would avail little more than they have in the past.

The COLLEGIAN, therefore, demands that the College administration enact regulations governing the conduct of fraternities in their initiations and that, furthermore, it enforce those regulations before some student is seriously injured or killed. It is regrettable that some student has already been injured so seriously as Youngdahl. But evidently it takes some incident such as this to awaken the fraternities and the College administration to the real danger of this practice, so vilely imbedded in State's tradition.

ADD HONOR ROLL

Fraternities: Alpha Kappa Pi, Alpha Phi Delta, Phi Sigma Delta, and Sigma Chi who announce this week the abolition of their "Hell Week."

CAMPUSEER

BY HIMSELF

(This Soph Hop week-end will bring the usual invasion of imports, from naive high school kids to polished prom trotters. Just for fun let's imagine an invitation by a freshman and one by a senior that will lure two of the gals up. Then we can estimate the social and cultural advantages of three years of College.)

Thirty-nine:

Dear Dorothy: How do you like my new stationery with the Penn State seal on it? I bet you didn't expect to get another letter from me so soon, did you? Gee, it seems like a long time since between semesters.

Remember that night when we went to the High School Senior Banquet last May and you said that I would forget about you after I went away to college? Well, just to prove that I'm not in love with any co-ed like you said I want you to come up for Soph Hop this week-end and stay Friday and Saturday nights. (They call dances "hops" up here.)

Joe Sanders and his orchestra are going to play Friday night and we can dance at a frat house Saturday night. The gym where the dance is being held is as big as the whole High School football field. Lovingly, Bobby

Dear Bobby:

Thanks just loads and loads for your sweet invitation. I'm so thrilled that I haven't slept a wink since your letter came. I can come.

Mother objected to me coming and staying all night at first and Dad still doesn't like the idea but she told Dad how well they know your father and mother and how you don't drink or anything and are nicer than most boys and he finally consented.

I am going to get a new evening gown in blue with silver slippers and I'm just so excited! Fondly, Dorothy

Thirty-six:

Listen Dot: Just because there's a Gamma Mu seal on this sheet don't jump at conclusions and think it's from Hank. But after the way he late-dated you on me last fall houseparty, the least he could do was to give me a sheet of paper. If this is never mailed you will know I couldn't find a stamp in his desk.

Probably I'm an awful sucker for punishment, but anyway come the hell up to Soph Hop unless you've been campused again. That is, if you think the student body of Pitt and Penn can spare you one week-end. By the way, I heard about you dancing on the piano down at the Bucknell Junior Prom last month. I'll bet you panicked them. Like a cold shower.

Now get this: if you come you will drink rye and rye all evening or else bring your own gin. You know how I detest the sight of the stuff but you always beef unless I get you some. And don't go trying to make everything in pants up here. Cordially yours, Cyrano de Bergerac

Listen yourself, Svengali:

Just because we nappeded to get tight together at the Country Club on New Year's Eve I'm not under your spell anymore and furthermore never was. And you can Tribby that on your flutski.

I don't know why I should venture away from God's country and away up in those wilds for a pitcher of Soph Hops or any other kind. As I recall, the suspense of your last wild party up there could have been duplicated in a Coney Island shooting gallery.

I've decided to come up just to get even with you for that last crack about my drinking. Tell Johnny and Pete and Hank I'm coming. At least they didn't pass out on me. Soberly, Roxanne

Sign of Spring: Louie Isenberg and Sammy Sax, for thirty years Penn State's favorite old clothes men, are around again. The Borough has bought a Black Maria after all these years. And Vernik has forsaken Frothing for the comparatively honest job of ushering at the Cathaum. Dick Bachofner is engaged to a nurse from Cory.

SPECIAL OLYMPIC TOUR. Sail July 21, Return August 24. 35 Days Duration, \$356. Visit Boulogne, Paris, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Berlin, Holland, The Trossacks.

Ample time allowed for attendance at the 11th Olympic Games. All expense tour including ocean transportation, foreign transportation, local steamers, motor coach service, three meals per day, hotel, tips, transfers. HOTEL STATE COLLEGE TRAVEL BUREAU. Steamship Division. Louetta Neusbaum, Director.

YOUR GUEST AND FRIENDS WILL ENJOY DINING AT THE CAMPUS GREEN ROOM. E. College Ave. Special Lunch and Dinner Menu this Week-end.

Letter Box

To the Editor:

When we elected forestry as our vocation we were not motivated by the stimulus of gaining large wealth and power, for such does not exist in the field of forestry; but rather we were moved by the desire to maintain and reproduce a rapidly vanishing natural resource that is of great benefit to the country as a whole either directly or indirectly. This fact alone should be convincing enough and proof enough that we, as foresters, already established Americanized principles and ideals, but rather that we are a distant body trying in one form to maintain the supremacy of the United States. Does it appear, from this, that there are among us any who are going to take that "step" into the terror by night in the Ghettos and the intellectual centers of tortured Germany?

What we have done to bear the brunt of your editorial we by no means know or understand. Many of us doubt that that letter appearing in the February 28th edition of the Collegian was written by a forester; we believe that the letter was written for the express purpose of creating an editorial subject to be used in your fight against Iwee Willie, Hitler, and "Hell Week." And if the letter was written by a forester would it not be more fair, more wise to gain the general opinion of the foresters before using them as a topic for discussion about a condition that perhaps you know nothing of?

Concerning the incident of the bonfire last fall would it not appear that the trouble was caused not by the fact that the Hat Men were Jews, but because the Hat Men were an authority that we knew nothing of, and at that time were not acquainted with?

There is a spirit of fraternalism existing among the foresters that is more intense than any other spirit found here, and that goes farther than fraternities, and even girls. With this spirit we hang together closely and strongly, and an attempt to restrict one is an attempted restriction against us all. Such was the case, we believe, at the bonfire.

Some of us believe in "Hell Week" as it is, others in a modified form, others not at all; and to say that one is addicted to Fascism because he believes in "Hell Week" sounds far-fetched. And to imply that the foresters at the bonfire are going to be the nucleus of "storm-troops" in this country sounds equally as foolish. And we never coupled "Hell Week" with Fascism until you mentioned it in your editorial.

Whether or not we are gentlemen is not for us to say, but we do have the right to prove to you that we are not in cohorts with Hitler or in sympathy with all of his doctrines. We have no fights, no arguments with anyone we are merely indignant about your attitude concerning us, and wish only that you explain yourself while we endeavor to explain ourselves.

We can take it as your knowledge of us and our school should indicate but we do not believe in taking it when we do not deem it necessary. We would appreciate it greatly if this letter was published for we deserve the right of the use of words in an attempt, a sincere attempt to justify ourselves. A sincere forester, LEROY SHAYLOR '38

To the Editor: Foresters of all classes are ashamed and disgusted that such an article as that signed "A Pledge" should be conceived by one who leads us to believe that he belongs to the forestry group. Forestry, as a profession, has no place for the intolerant one, whether his intolerance be of racial, religious, or personal nature. That such an outburst should be directed against the members of any one race is not only unsportsmanlike but distinctly cowardly for we see that our outspoken friend hides himself under the indefinite title of "A Pledge." Since he has not come into the open and signed his name to the article, the accusations therein can be disregarded and no further attention should be paid to an article of such low caliber. H. M. GALLOWAY

To the editor:

Colonel Venable talked to the R. O. T. C. class today. His talk was along these lines: Are you (ROTC students) aware of the critical situation which exists in the world today?—students who are straightforward and honest in everything else still cheat on their examination papers in college. Why? Because, they say, everyone else does it and the others would gain an unfair advantage if they didn't also do it. The United States at one time tried hard to conquer this entire continent but it wasn't able. Still it gained, through fighting, all of its present territory. Today, persons say they can't understand the dreadful things happening in foreign countries. To them, it seems impossible that these countries commit the barbarous acts they do. However, these countries can see no wrong in what they are doing. They say, "Look how the United States treated the poor Indians and Mexicans in obtaining their land. We are not doing any worse than they did then." Therefore these countries would justify their right to conquer the United States if they had the chance. They say they would be doing no more than the United States did in gaining its land. Think it over. . . . Students said that they didn't get much from the talk, that they saw no point to it. Whatever the "moral" of Colonel Venable's "tale," it is obvious to anyone who wants to think that it has no place in an educational institution. "Talk," like this, may undo in a short time, the ideals which great thinkers and educators labor decades to create. Sincerely, A reader

Herbert Koeppe-Baker, director of the college speech clinic, will conduct a clinic at Scranton March 18-21. In this meeting, which is among the last of a long program conducted this year, Mr. Koeppe-Baker will be assisted by George Daughter, a graduate student in speech. About 200 children and adults from the Scranton area will be examined for speech disorders and treatment will be suggested. Lectures will be delivered by Mr. Koeppe-Baker in which slides and motion pictures will be used to illustrate the methods and techniques in treatment. There will also be round tables for nurses, social workers, dentists and physicians.

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Coaches Train, Grunt, Become Apprehensive As Dark Horse Threatens Handball Tourney

Instead of telling others how to keep in good condition, sixteen members of the coaching staff are diligently training themselves for one of the keenest competitive sports yet seen on this campus.

While sports enthusiasts direct their entire attention to the varsity teams in intercollegiate competition, the coaches are battling away in a fierce struggle to determine the much-argued-over handball championship of the phys ed faculty. For the past few weeks, eight teams of two have been fighting it out in a round-robin tournament. The winners are not always the best players; often they are the strongest.

Leading the individual entrants is Leo Houck, who received the number 1 ranking from other participants. Leo, although using different tactics than he teaches his boxers, has a technique that usually produces results. Leo has three methods that he employs to prevent his opponents from scoring points: he accidentally bumps into his opponent; he suddenly falls to the floor in front of the play; or he accidentally misdirects the ball so that it hits his opponent.

Like all major tournaments, and "battles of the century," this competition has its mystery entrants. This team, which has yet to play its first league game, is composed of Hugo Bezek and Nels Walke. There is hidden strength here, and everyone is waiting for the boys to show their hands.

Results of the early rounds show no signs of the ultimate winners. Thus far, the teams of Joe Bedenk and Mike Zeleznoek, Bob Higgins and Al Mikelonis, Spike Leslie and Herm Evehardus, and Doc Davis and Charlie Speidel are undefeated. Despite Leo Houck, the team of Chick Werner and Houck has suffered four smashing losses, while Ike Gilbert and Gene Bischoff and Bill Ullery and Glenn Thiel have lost three and four sets, respectively.

The players are working out daily and are adhering to strict training rules. Experts have been called in; plans are being made to determine the best way to defeat certain teams. Although it is too early in the competition to make hasty predictions, it is the general opinion that the mystery team should be watched closely.

WATCH OUR WINDOW! The Salient Sifter Tells What Happens Before It Happens. NITTANY NEWS STAND

CONVERTS BEGINNERS—CONVINCES VETERANS! FILTER-COOLED Frank MEDICO (PATENTED) This simple appearing yet amazing absorbent filter invention with Cellulose exterior and cooling mesh screen interior keeps juices and flakes in Filter and out of mouth. Prevents tongue bite, raw mouth, wet heel, bad odor, frequent expectoration. No breaking in. Improves the taste and aroma of any tobacco.

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BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM. Why not telephone home at least once each week? For lowest rates to most points, call station-to-station after 7 P. M. daily, or any time Sunday.