PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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Tuesday, March 10, 1936

THE CURTAIN RISES

"Elections are coming! Elections are coming!" And while Italian forces of Fascism continue their program of "civilization" in Ethiopia; while Hitler rearms the Rhine district; and while local peace workers are unable to break through the complacent lethargy of students here;- for about two local men of politics the only important question of the day is "How many hous es you got behind ya?"

Of course none of the politicians is naive enough to suppose that the actual identity of a class officer can make the least possible difference. In a political system where nothing matters but the "spoils" of office, there is little room for an official who wants to do anything other than to collect his legitimate graft and to grab anything else that he can get away with. An occasional senior, who will have no more opportunities to mulch his class, may make a half-hearted attempt at reform, but for the most part those individuals with a possible streak of honesty are eliminated early in their political career. Thus, to astute clique chairmen, the qualifications for office that a potential candidate may possess are never considered. The only questions which arise are: "Is he smooth?" "Does he know a lot of people?" "Has his name been prominent recently?"

The last item is the reason for the amazingly high correlation between athletic and political success. The classic example of a few years ago, when an intercollegiate wrestling champion allowed himself to be run, for vice-president of his class only after he had been assured that his only duty if elected would be to collect his dance "comp" before each major dance, is repeated in some form every year.

So, we may expect the usual week-long procession of athletes and smooth talkers, wandering through fraternities and boarding houses assuring uninterested voters that "Joe Plotz is a good guy and how ya voting this time?"

"The Great Game of Politics" on the local campus is neither very great nor much of a game-unless a series of double-crossing, stabs-in-the-back, and broken promises may be said to constitute a game-but it is incomparably funny.

FRATERNITY AVERAGES

-J, B

The comparatively low scholarship rating of Penn State fraternities was cited by Alvan E. Duerr, a past president of the National Interfraternity Council, when he spoke at the Interfraternity Conference here last week-end. The facts given by Mr. Duerr stand as an indictment against fraternity scholarship, although Penn State's standing is not as low as the figures would indicate.

The speaker stated that Fenn State fraternities have never stood higher than thirtieth and sometimes as low as fifth in the scholarship ratings based on 175 colleges. However, Penn State's rating is compiled on the basis of all four classes, while the majority of the ratings are taken from the three upper classes only.

While there is much room for improvement in fraternity scholarship here, one factor which would aid in boosting the college's rating would be the elimination of the scholastic averages of pledges from the fraternity ratings. It remains for the Registrar's office, then, to compile only the averages of upper classmen in fraternities in order to place the rating system here on an equal with that used in most other colleges.

From the office of the Registrar comes the complaint that fraternities here have been prone to co-operate in the compilation of house averages and that a scholastic rating excluding the average of pledges can only be accomplished by the cooperation of every house. Some agreement must be reached between the Registrar's office and the officers of every fraternity so that house averages may be compiled in this manner. As the averages of pledges are, as a whole, much lower than the averages of any of the three upper classes, a compilation of grades based on the upper classes only would raise Penn State's rating in the college division.

ADD HONOR ROLL

Fraternities Alpha Zeta and Phi Delta Theta have announced this week that they have abolished all forms

OLD MANIA

French Postcard:

Those of you who went to see Trudi Schoon's comic ballet Saturday night may have noticed the name "Didi Lederer" as one of the dancers on the program. About Thursday or Friday of last week a postcard came to the local postoffice addressed to this Didi Lederer, with some foreign stamp on it. The authorities there, with their usual brilliance, delivered the card to ex-Burgess Lederer.

He couldn't make much sense out of it and took it back to the postoffice to see if anyone there could translate it for him. He was standing in line trying to get to one of the windows and showing people his fan mail, when Vancie Packard, Centre Daily Times scoopman, stepped forward manfully. He could read frog, he told Lederer.

Vancie scanned the card. "This isn't frog," he said. "It has a Czechoslovakian stamp on it, and it seems to be for someone in the Trudi Schoop company coming here Saturday." He promised to take care of it Towne Swalm, who does the Artists' Course for COLLEGIAN, finally got hold of it and saw that it was delivered to Miss Lederer when she got into town.

Manager's Rake-off:

Vernon Cronister, who is manager of freshman wrestling, took his boys down to Mansfield State Teachers' College a couple weeks ago for a meet. He managed the team exceedingly well and came back with sixty dollars left over from his expense money, So he took the surplus down to the bank and started

Time passed, and Mr. Fleming called him in. There was a difference of sixty dollars between his expense account and the amount he had been given, Fleming said. How come? Cronister explained that he had saved that. "Where is it?" Neil asked. Cronister told him what he had done with it, and nulled from his pocket a manager's handbook printed way back in 1927 or '28 and showed Neil where it said that the manager should keep all the money he saved

Mr. Fleming patiently explained how these things have changed, and Cronister went down and drew out the sixty dollars and gave it back to the Athletic

About Town and Campus:

The Phi Sigma Deltas have two whiffleboards in their basement, the gift of an alumnus who lives in Harrisburg. They can practice all day long for nothing and then go down and clean out the local paying boards with ease . . .

Our nómination for the crudest gent of the week the mug who sat in the front row balcony at the Artists' Course Saturday night and scanned the audience with his binoculars during intermissions . . . Cyrus V. D. Bissey seemed to get as much kick out of it as did anybody when he slipped on the steps while going to his seat . . .

The rose in Ann Fagan's hair was just too, too gorgeous . . . The borough is hiring another cop, a former state patrolman, who will be on full-time night duty . . . Dave Wright, advanced rotissie man, went home the other day. He came from class, went out to his house and donned his uniform before leaving . . .

It seems that Pete Lektrich and Briggs Pruitt were gagging about the five-dollar bill they were supposed to have found on Old Main steps . . . We note that the Mug and Jester ran'a couple of items we had previously carried. Hillgartner will learn to show us his column before he sends it to the printers . . -THE MANIAC

WE MAKE NO CHARGE FOR STYLE

BECAUSE IT'S PRICELESS

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CINEMANIA

The film version of George M. Cohen's famous "Song and Dance Cohen's famous "Song and Dance Man" opens today at the Cathaum, featuring Paul Kelly and Claire The-vor. This is one of the first pre-sentations of this picture since it opens at Radio City tomorrow. A stirring melodrama of the Old

Letter Box

I just saw the Pitt-Penn State bas-ketball game. Once more it was my privilege to witness the spirit of bat-tle that brings joy to every Penn State man. I felt badly for Spike Lesthe opportunity. And somehow of other, I am inclined to blame some of them at least for the defeat. Or, per haps, I should say that had a reasonable number of them been present to offer a reasonable amount of encour gement, the result I believe, would we been different.

The boys had all it takes to win

The boys had all it takes to win a basketball game. And for about 28 minutes of the 40 played I though they would. I have seen several good games at the stadium this season but this was one of the best.

Exhibitions such as I raw last October on the field of the same stadium and tonight will accomplish much to re-instate the respect of Pittsburgh institutions and their allumi, as well as our own, toward Penn State as a dangerous competitor in athletic dangerous competitor in athleti vents. It was evident that the score of Pitt rooters tonight who really thought their team was headed for a defeat had respect for me as a Penr State man. One of them told me so. The same applies to Pittsburgh news. papers, none of whom take State teams very seriously. To a certain ex-tent they are right but the tide is

Edmund L.Flynn '29 Hotel William Penn

West, "Yellow Dust" is the attraction at the Nittany tonight and tomorrow. Richard Dix, returning to the type of character which he made famous in "Cimaron," has the lead playing op-rests. Leit Manne. Cimaron," has the posite Lelia Hyams.

posite Lelia Hyams.

The story deals with the discovery of a rich claim by Dix and his partner, played by Andy Clyde. Dix is so enthralled by Miss Hyams that he forgets to register the claim. By a series of complications he is, arrested and the claim and the girl are nearly lost to Onslow Stevens, the crooked proprietor of a hotel where Miss Hyams is singing. proprietor of a Hyants is singing.

Could you start out from New York Gould you start out from New York penniless and dressed only in your underwear and in ten days arrive in Los Angeles with a new suit, \$100, and a fiance? That is the bet that Gene Raymond undertakes in the picture "Love on a Bet" at the Cathaum tomorrow and the Nittany Thursday. State man. I felt badly for Spike Leslie and the seven or eight boys that took part in that marvelous exhibition. They deserved a victory. My real regret, however, is that the other 1700 Penn State men in the Pittsburg district didn't take advantage of the opportunity. And somehow or this nicture the screen play of which this picture, the screen play of which was written by Phil Epstein '32.

> The peculiarities of New England peech are being gradually lost, say, Harvard authorities. Even the Harvard accent itself is no longer sacred



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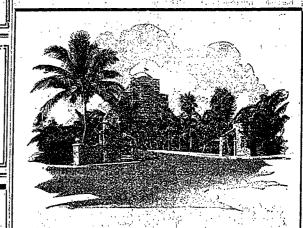
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