

Letter Box

(Continued from page two)

received for the money he pays. Certainly he does after the initiation fee is paid. Most of our chapters operate on a budget system. Every freshman before he pledges is entitled to a typed, detailed statement of the expenses involved in joining. What does the initiation fee cover? Pin? Magazine? Must he buy a bond now or later? What is the monthly bill? How many months will it be presented? Are assessments for any purpose possible? If these questions are answered squarely and correctly, and if the additional expense will not be a burden on the freshman or his parents—well, if he were my son I'd think

he had better join. But if he can't afford it, or if he isn't invited to join, what then? Well, only forty per cent are fraternity members—and the rest of the group have four fine, happy, profitable years, as did the writer—who couldn't afford to join a fraternity when he was a student, back in the days before the war.

Very truly yours,
"AN ALUMNUS"

What some call the most precious work of art in the United States is the life mask of George Washington made by the famed French sculptor, Houdon, commissioned in 1785 by Virginia to execute a marble statue of Washington. The life mask is at Mount Vernon.

The Record Crop

Some of you spent the summer dodging Joe Clarinetti's Bus Boys, and some of you no doubt kept running into bands that "sounded just like Benny Goodman, I'm Telling You." But you're back now and the "past is a bucket of ashes," to swipe a line from Sandburg just to get some class into this stint. That means your musical education may continue along more orderly lines. Most of the talk is still swing music, but the tone is quieter. The intoxication of the first lifting of commercial repressions has fortunately worn off to the place where the third-chair sax of the "Society Sizzlers" now feels the urge upon him to prove how close he can come to Coleman Hawkins.

The musical *Swing Time* is evidence enough of the hefty influence the revived hot music has made; however, one hardly looks for Jerome Kern to emulate the Dixieland Jazz spirit. He doesn't, but he supplies a very satisfying score for the Dorothy Field lyrics and their execution in the hands of the Astaire-Rogers duo. You'll hear the songs and see the dancing at the local theater soon; meanwhile let me assure you that if the tunes catch and you want them with you, Brunswick has done a good job of catching them on wax. Johnny Green's Orchestra is no swing band, but there is real spirit in the backgrounds for Astaire's pleasing and unpretentious voice. *A Fine Romance*, *Bojangles of Harlem*, *Newer Gonna Dance, Pick Yourself Up* are straightforward and full-bodied treatments of musical comedy matter, with most of the lyrics on the side of intelligence and humor. Nice catching of Limbhouse Blues theme in the tribute to Bill Robinson, "Bojangles." Astaire dances in black-face for this one. (You won't see that on the record.) The *Waltz in Swing Time* is instrumental, played very fast, and gets away from that oozy *Three O'Clock in the Morning* drag that licks most popular waltz tunes. Incidentally, they tell me the Johnny Green-Astaire combination will appear over the air this autumn on the Packard Motor Hour.

The Beiderbecke Album is out at last, with fancy cover, descriptive booklet which tells a lot about the records and as much about Beiderbecke as space allows. The Victor masters from which present album is made, are frequently different from those used for the 1928 releases, all of which makes a fine study of the Beiderbecke versatility. The price is five dollars, but when you consider the research among stacks of old masters (metal first impressions) to produce the selection, the price is fair enough for twelve out-of-print sides, even if the booklet were omitted. Perhaps more of this later.

Vocalion labels for Brunswick continue to corner some of the best of the hot music these days. And before I forget it, that label has revived the colored blues singer, Bessie Smith, from the old Columbia of *Empty Bed Blues*, two sides. Conjuror's stuff from under the counter and may no copy be left around by next Mother's Day. None will. Billie Holiday chants away on *Billie's Blues* and a song from *Foggy and Bess*, the supporting musicians matching her boom boom and gusto. Vocalion can also give you Mal Hallett fans a hearing

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Authorities Give Rules to Groups

Organizations Must File Proper Applications To Use College Facilities, Rooms

College departments or chartered student organizations have the right to use College facilities for public meetings, entertainments, or dances. Exceptions to this policy must have the approval of the Assistant to the President in charge of Business and Finance.

Application blanks are provided for those groups which are interested in using the College facilities. No arrangement of the event planned should be made until the application has been duly executed in its entirety. These applications can be obtained from the offices of the Dean of Men, the Dean of Women, and the Department of Grounds and Building.

Approval of applications must be obtained from the following custodians: Director of Music, Auditorium; Professor of Military Science and Tactics, Armory; Director of Physical Education; Recreation hall; Manager of the Student Union, Lounges of Old Main; and Superintendent of the Department of Grounds and Buildings, the campus grounds.

Rooms in other buildings on the campus will be assigned by the custodian (ordinarily the Dean of the School) who shall immediately notify the Student Union. Single rooms for meetings in Old Main will be assigned by the manager of Student Union. Rooms in Old Main for extended use will be assigned by the Student Union with the approval of the Superintendent of the Department of Grounds and Buildings.

All necessary State and Federal regulations pertaining to tax returns, permits, etc., must be compiled with the permits presented for action previous to the date scheduled for the event. In lieu of this procedure the buildings or grounds cannot be used.

Two Hundred Attend College Post Session

Nearly 200 students were enrolled in the three weeks' Post Session of the College which closed August 28. The Post Session was the last of Penn State's three summer sessions.

The offering included courses in education, foreign languages, composition and the social sciences. Now, they have recorded Mal's signature, *Boston Tea Party*. It is not to my own taste, but don't say I wasn't fair. Anyway, as I said, get a line on these Vocalions; the Brunswick folks are doing right by their thirty-five cent by-product.

CINEMANIA

Perhaps M. G. M. realized that motion picture audiences were beginning to get a little tired watching Joan Crawford imitate the too utterly utterly penthouse people of "Let Us Be Gay," and the other films of the *top-jour gai* school. At any rate her latest role is entirely different from anything else she has done previously on the screen. "The Glorious Hussy," which plays at the Cathaum today and tomorrow, is a costume picture of America in the days when politicians were as quick to pull a trigger as they are now to make a speech.

Co-starred with Miss Crawford is M. G. M.'s latest meteoric star, Robert Taylor. The supporting cast is as brilliant as most of those which M. G. M. assembles for its headliners. It includes Lionel Barrymore, Franchot Tone, Melvyn Douglas, James Stewart, and Alison Skipworth.

Miss Crawford plays the part of Peggy O'Neal, the daughter of an inn-keeper. Most of the important figures in Washington, Webster, Jackson, and others, know her. She falls in love with John Randolph, Melvyn Douglas, but he doesn't consider her refined enough for him.

Follow for Peggy a series of love affairs. She becomes attached to Andrew Jackson (Lionel Barrymore) and his wife and aids the former in his campaign for the presidency, although as a result she is estranged from Randolph. She marries John Eaton (Franchot Tone) and then, because her position in Washington has become embarrassing for Jackson, she and her husband leave the country.

Taylor is seen as one of Peggy's two husbands, James Stewart is one of the five men in love with her.

A horse opera, produced in connection with the Texas Centennial, will be at the Cathaum Saturday. "Texas Rangers" stars Jack Oakie. That's all we know about it.

We are one of those persons who never did get around to reading "Anthony Adverse." (We were about to start it when Lit. Prof. Werner opined that it was not a great novel so we read "Roll River" instead.) We understand, however, from those who have waded through its thirteen hundred pages that it makes swell movie melodrama—and most of the critics have agreed that it is one of the outstanding cinema offerings of the year. It comes to the Cathaum screen Monday and Tuesday.

The story, as most of you know, deals with the adventures of Anthony Adverse, a romantic figure moving through Europe, America, and Africa during the period of the Napoleonic wars. The picture was two years in the making—nearly as long as it took some people to read the book—and Warner Brothers have given it the usual elaborate treatment. Frederic March in the title role

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