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Tuesday, September 15, 1936

FRATERNITIES AND SCHOLARSHIP

Publication of fraternity averages should help prospective pledges determine whether the boys at the house are serious about there being a rigidly enforced study hour and whether scholarship is considered of major or minor importance. It should also assist fraternity men in deciding whether valedictorians or half-backs are going to be of more value to the house.

As usual the averages for non-fraternity men are higher—this time by .15 of an honor point—than the fraternity men. The latter generally explain this by pointing out that the type of student who gets high grades is often the "bookwormish" fellow for whom fraternities have little appeal. They also claim that the fraternity man goes in more for activities, thus giving him less time for study. While his marks may suffer, he usually gains experience which is more valuable to him than grades.

To a degree this is probably true. Two facts, however, are opposed to it. In the first place it is hard to see why non-fraternity men should have higher averages when the grades of non-fraternity women are consistently lower than those of women who are affiliated with houses. In the second place a number of studies on this and other campuses have shown that students who engage in extra-curricular activities generally have grades that are as high or higher than those who do not.

Although it happens nearly every semester it always comes as something of a shock to find that several houses have an average below a one. This, of course, means that there were nearly as many men in those houses who received failing grades and zips than there were men with ones and twos. It is also rather startling to find that only a dozen fraternities have averages that are higher than the combined average of all non-fraternity men.

It would seem that Interfraternity Council—if that group is interested in such a matter as scholarship—might do something to improve this situation. A standard ruling requiring initiates to have a one average would help some. To be effective it would have to be enforced a little more strictly than the ruling which many houses now have whereby certain courses in which a man received a failing grade are excluded when his average is compiled because they were subjects that "he wasn't much interested in," or upon some other excuse.

With a few exceptions the houses occupy about the same relative position this semester that they have had in the past year or two. This is probably evidence that new men tend to place the same emphasis upon scholarship as the old members.

STEREOTYPED THINKING

The first results of the COLLEGIAN presidential poll are just about what might be expected. The freshman class has returned a large Landon and a larger Republican majority. Coming, for the most part, from middle class families that have been voting since the Civil War it is only natural that the politics of the Class of 1940 should be the same as that of their parents.

Two encouraging signs, however, are to be noted. The first is that the Landon majority is much lower among the freshmen who are over twenty-one, demonstrating, perhaps, that by the time a man is of voting age he begins to think a little for himself. The second is that although in party affiliations the Republicans are given a lead of 145 votes over the Democrats, their nominee, Landon, has a lead of only 128 over Roosevelt. When members begin to vote outside their party it is evidence that they are thinking about the issues and men confronting them are not voting blindly because of a party label.

Apparently the Communist organizers have not been very efficient in high schools of the state. Hearst newspapers to the contrary, since there is one long vote for their party and none for their candidate, Penn State's hordes of Reds will soon change all that, of course.

The upperclass vote, which will be taken this week, will probably show different results. Many of them have received N. Y. A. aid and are not likely to bite the hand that feeds them. In addition they have been away from home long enough to have the opportunity of thinking over the issues of the election. The number that actually do think can be determined more accurately when the results are returned.

THIS YEAR'S RUSHING CODE seems to be working out quite well. The one major change, which imposed an overnight silent period between the giving out of rushing cards and the signing of dates, prevented the mad scramble of last fall. The result has benefited both the fraternities and the rushees.

OLD MANIA

(With this contribution a new star looms on the literary horizon. For obvious reasons her anonymity must be preserved. Although she writes in a modern style and tempo her subject matter is even older than Mac Hall. By printing this gem the COLLEGIAN once again shows its extremely progressive policy for this bit of worse was successively turned down by such stellar publications as *Froth*, *the Bell*, *the Farmer*, *Engineer*, *Liberty*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Esquire* and *the New Masses*.)

autumnal urge

across the lawn
a butterfly
is getting dizzy
so am I

the air is warm
and balmy too
it makes me quiver
so do you

the birds are mating
in the tree
they seem to like it
wouldn't we

Below the Belt

In order to discourage an influx of nondescript students into his attractively titled Novel course, Prof. Werner has scheduled it for 8 on Wednesday and Saturday . . .

Knott for Long

The summer being such as it was and human nature such as it is, we take great pleasure in announcing that the following persons assumed the tie-that-binds since last we walked in the shadow of Old Main: Under the sponsorship of Wm. Y. E. Rambo as best man, Ernie Nachod, sigma nu, made the fatal gesture with Vivian Yeaney, perennial summer school sweetpot. First honors go to the signajj fraekhouse with two victims, Frank Thomas, who passed the circle to Ginny Lewis of the kappa manse while Bar Riley exchanged vows with an unidentified female. Others whose partners names have been lost in the shuffle, include Dot Monkgolden, Helen Mallieu, Dot Ely, Marian Tomlinson, Jean Sechrist, Bucky Buckwalter and Lou Bell.

Rogues Gallery

Only pictures decorating the waste expanse of walls in the printing dept. of the Grit Pub. Co. of Williamsport, printers of *LaVie*, are *LaVie* proofs of Fran Turner, Queenie Rosini, Ginny Louis and Med. Connabee.

Pick-ups

Dagmar Hansen (remember?) is phys ed instructress in Morrison's Cove Vocational high school, an agrarian institution we are told . . . Dory Becker is modeling gowns in Pittsburgh while according to her own admission, Nancy Drake had so many offers to do the same job that she had difficulty picking her spot . . . We have heard that Sandy Morrison, for whom we have the greatest respect because he had the courage of his convictions and failed to graduate rather than take R. O. T. C., is "talking sales-girlies into talking women into buying his father's corsets" . . . Signs of Change: Arney Kalin is no longer presiding over the festivities at the Hofbrau, local pleasure spot, having sold same to one Paul Boeger . . . Our congratulations to Director Bezdek for his hole in one the other day. We always knew that he would make good some day . . . Heard While Strolling: ". . . and at our house we even got a barber just for freshmen; shave, haircut any time . . ." —The Maniac

CINEMANIA

Tonight the Cathaum presents the cinema version of "Anthony Adverse," the book which 3,000,000 are alleged to have read, talked about, but never quite finished. The picture threatens to be as long as the book, but vastly more entertaining.

Frederic March is cast in the lead with Olivia de Havilland and thousands of Hollywood extras. Opinion on the show has been divergent, which seems to be a phenomenon expressly applicable to outstanding productions of this type. There are some trick techniques at work in this collossus as well, which might make interesting comment for observers of the obscure.

In addition, the local management is not boasting prices, although they have been advanced in less civilized communities. The outstanding feat in the production is the choice of scenes. Obviously, the entire book could not be used since it contains literally thousands of scenes and would require an equal number of sets. But the selection so skillfully worked out that the continuity of the book is not too heavily sacrificed, although there are some who would say that it wouldn't make much difference. "Anthony Adverse" is truly a spectacle.

Well, here they are again. Gene Raymond and Ann Sothern are at the Cathaum tomorrow and at the Nittany Thursday with a refreshing little comedy about an original theme. The scene is laid in Hollywood, Beverly Hills, to be precise, and the action revolves around an heiress and two college boys. It's a comedy and has some slick melody thrown in, including: "Cabin on the Hilltop," "My Heart Wants to Dance," and "Let's Make a Wish." Gene sings, too.

The novelty of the picture arises from the fact that it has never been done before. Usually, these pictures about guys impersonating French counts to earn money and to further a career and wearing a mustache for the first time, are just variations of

an old idea. There is also a noted football star in the picture by the name of Jones, Henry Stephenson and Jessie Ralph, all three of which make themselves useful in the comedy situations. Oh, yes, the name of the show is "Walking on Air."

The Nittany theater opens tonight with "Bengal Tiger." The co-stars of the picture are Barton McLane, a lion tamer, and Satan, the man-killer, whose performance as a man-eating tiger is unequalled, critics say. The latest critic who shook hands with Satan has never been seen since. It's a show packed with terror and thrills, and includes a trapeze artist. The conflict lies between Joe, the trapeze artist, and Cliff, the lion tamer, who are both in love with Laura, the heroine. The man on the trapeze finally wins, after Satan tries to liquidate the situation in his own way when he attacks both men in the cage. It's on tomorrow night also.

General Yang died at dawn. So Clifford Odets, who wrote the screen play and incorporated swell dialogue, let it go at that and they called it "The General Died at Dawn." It plays Thursday and Friday at the Cathaum. It's one of the niftiest cinema products that has hit the local landscape in some time. Gary Cooper who has become much more of an actor than most would suspect, does a canny bit of acting. Madeleine Carroll, whose performance in the British cinema was exemplified in such pictures as "The 39 Steps," gives an entirely pleasing performance.

This show is rich in many things. Among them is delicate photography, especially military shots, directed by the man who gave you realism in war in "All Quiet on the Western Front." For the first time in many moons, cinema-montage is used effectively. A full symphonic accompaniment is delicately worked in, without becoming obtrusive, yet contributing to the emotional effect, a tonal recording of the mood the entire production so effectively stimulates. Working on the thesis that two stimuli are more effective in creating mood than one, the directors of the "General Died at Dawn," have done a masterful job.

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