

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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Thursday, September 2, 1937

A PLACE TO EAT AND SLEEP

AS THE CLASS OF 1941 pours into State College for the four best years of life its members ever will enjoy, there will be a large percentage of the male students who will retain enough of the "old college spirit" and tradition to be worried more about prospective fraternity membership than anything else.

In less than two weeks after having arrived in college many of them will have made a decision which they regard as supremely important. Perhaps it is. But there are many things to consider before making that decision, or any decision.

It must be emphasized that membership in one fraternity is rarely more desirable than membership in any of numerous other fraternities. It must be remembered that fraternities are asking men to join whom they have known but for ten days. They are forcing a decision that cannot be fairly made in such a period. Because of financial necessity, they are willing to gamble on the men they pledge.

Naturally many mistakes are made. Many misfits occur. Many situations arise where the pledge wishes he had never committed himself. But fundamentally each fraternity is the same. Each has its share of luminaries, each its quota of black sheep. In ten days, prospective members will be thrown with the luminaries, will be steered clear of the black sheep.

Membership should be pledged to the group with whom the freshman believes he is best suited whether that group be the "apple of his eye" or not.

Should the freshman not find a compatible group in that time he should not commit himself to any for the mere sake of "joining a fraternity."

Fraternity membership is not necessary to enjoyment in college, is in most cases detrimental to scholarly ambitions. But fraternity membership in Penn State is desirable for a very peculiar reason. The best living conditions are to be found in fraternities, chiefly because other living conditions at the College are woefully lacking in comfort, cleanliness, and number.

There are not enough good, decent places in State College in which to live. This condition makes discriminating students seek the fraternity for living quarters.

And strangely enough that's mostly what a fraternity is—a place to live and eat. A freshman would be wise to select a fraternity just as he would select any place to eat and live. If he thinks he can pick a desirable group of persons that he would like to live with and associate with for four years, the freshman can find a fraternity to join if he desires. Closer bonds will come easily in any such conditions.

At any rate, it is the best way a freshman can find a fraternity in ten days. And if he doesn't find one, it won't be any particular calamity. He can wait until later, or he can discard fraternal ambitions and become none the poorer.

A MATTER OF CUSTOM

IN THE EVENT that any tales have filtered to the hinterlands to the effect that freshman customs at Penn State are no more, it is only fair to warn prospective "wearers of the dink" that such is not the case at all.

Recent word from a newly-organized Student Tribunal and the hat societies indicates that enforcement of customs this year will be rigid. True, the old days of hazing and brow-beating are gone forever. But the wearing of the dink (this year blue and white instead of green) and a few other rules and restrictions still hold.

Student leaders believe that the conscientious observance of customs plus a rigid enforcement will have a benefitting morale upon the spirit and character of freshmen. They believe that the freshmen themselves will agree in time that some of the old traditions are desirable, and that they will have an uplifting effect upon class spirit and comradeship that seems to be declining so rapidly in many institutions of higher learning.

OLD MANIA

For years, it's been said that the new freshman class at Penn State will be entering upon the best years of its life. This year, it's no exception for the 1,405 frosh, more or less.

Constant living and seeing in State College gives the Maniac some sort of view on the life here. Since most of the 1,405 would-be students will start College with nothing but doubt, aside from hopes and ambitions, as to what is in store here, the Maniac lists below several things to expect.

If your family decides to drive you up, by all means take them to visit the college barns while they're here. The college barns are, to put it in few words, the nuts. There you see prize cows, bulls, et al, living under ideal conditions. You can see them being milked by scientific methods. It's too bad the students can't have such nice living quarters.

Of course your family will see the campus. Penn State's campus is nothing to be ashamed of. If your wise-cracking brother makes a nasty crack about the armory, tell him to stick around. By the time you're a senior, there will be nine beautiful, modern buildings which should be nice enough to make up for the armory.

By all means, see that the family eats at the corner. The corner seems to be but really isn't any more expensive than any other place. And besides, it is the place movies and books term the "college hangout."

Students spend hours between classes sitting in the booths sipping cool drinks or hot ones. There are always lots of girls. In fact, all the lovers spend a good part of their time there.

There are many waitresses in the corner. Some of them are rather nice looking. You male freshmen had better stay away, however, for the watchful eyes of the manager permit little flirting. The gals are kept behind locked doors and date very little.

There are lots of fresh guys around, so you freshman dames beware. It so happens that freshman dolls are very popular. At least, that's what the upper-class women say. It's supposed to be true that a co-ed's popularity decreases as she advances in grade. Freshman gals can't date for a certain period, but they usually make up for it later.

Customs will be on hand to gripe the freshman boys. That's really too bad. You'll have to wear little blue and white hats, which are quite an improvement over the old green dink. You'll have to wear black ties and do all sorts of slave stuff for upperclassmen.

Customs are not well received by a good part of the student body, so youse as don't like 'em will find sympathy. It's not a bad idea to carry the stuff through. It won't do much harm.

One of the customs prohibits the boys from dating for a certain long period. That's really too bad. It seems there are about five times as many men as women, and the upperclassmen need a start each year. The idea is to get settled early and then you have something, or maybe you don't.

And finally, there are the frats. Boys and girls will receive all sorts of mad propaganda about how old beta beta is the best. That's so much boloney. All houses are alike, other than in location and in appearance. There are the usual number of heels in each house, only it sometimes takes a bit longer to find out which ones are the heels.

And an aside to the gals: There have been whisperings about of a contest to pick out the most beautiful, gorgeous, most oh-la-la-lalaa girl in the whole promising crop of pulchritude. We aren't sure—but it might well behoove each fair lass to keep these tidings in mind. For who knows? It may be you, or you, or even you.

NYA Provides Students Work

No Definite Assurance Received But Federal Continuation Is Expected

Although no official assurance of N.Y.A. has been received by the College authorities as yet, the administration has indicated that the National Youth Administration will continue this year on practically the same basis as last year.

Secretary to the President Adrian O. Morse expressed the belief Monday that federal funds, released through N.Y.A., will be received during the year, although there may be a possibility that the appropriation will be slashed in view of governmental attempts to reduce relief rolls.

Freshmen Will Get Jobs
All indications pointing to continued aid this year, freshmen will be eligible for jobs. Applications are available at the office of the controller.

If the same schedule is followed this year as last, approximately twelve per cent of the total student body of the College, as of October, 1935, will be awarded jobs. Work is allotted on the basis of need primarily, although scholarship is taken into consideration in cases of equally needy students. Last year about 897 students were on N.Y.A. rolls here.

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sixty-three of them being graduate students.

Undergraduates, according to rates last year, received thirty-five cents an hour, while graduate students received higher pay. A maximum of forty-three hours a month is allotted to each worker, although students may not be given the full time, according to the monthly appropriation.

The average allowance per month is slightly in excess of \$15.05 or less, depending both on the appropriation

for the month and the number of students employed. Work proceeds along departmental lines, and is divided according to the divisions of the College. Students are employed at so-

cially desirable jobs about the campus, and are usually placed in a line of work corresponding to their course of study. In this way, students are enabled to gain practical experience.

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