

With the Editor—

## The Editor Throws In A Wet Rag Instead Of A Welcome. Sorry.

It is hard to write an editorial for which you have no heart and, yet, there are times when the mind and the heart cannot agree.

I have no heart for saying that these are serious times, more serious even than a year ago when thousands of American students tramped back to college just a few days after the Second World War had broken hell over Poland. But my mind tells me it is the truth.

If my mind were not saying no, I would write a long editorial of welcome to the freshman class, extolling the joys of college, lauding the benefits, and ending with fatherly advice to work hard and be good.

But these things, I know, will be said in other places and in other meetings and even though they are unsaid they will be discovered in due time.

I must listen to my mind, then, and write about something else that should not be and yet will probably be overlooked in the roisterous first days of college.

The days which are ahead of us are not easy days, though we would like to think they are. And, if we make the mistake of passing them as easy days, we will suddenly come face to face with a day of reckoning for which we are not prepared.

Many of us whose hearts do not want to believe must believe, nevertheless, that the United States is no longer splendidly isolated. We must believe that our future is no longer what we make it but what Adolph Hitler makes it. He has forced our hand and, willing or not, we must either play or be beaten.

As college students we are divided on the draft. Some of us are for it, some of us are against it. But, whether we like it or not, we must agree it is the wisest thing. Against those who object, the argument was best expressed by Senator Millard Tydings: "I would rather have it and not need it, than need it and not have it."

Apparently only a few per cent of the student body will be drafted. Those who are called as well as those who are not called must face a responsibility. It is to study the news carefully, to realize the extent of the threat with which we are faced, and to adjust our minds to act intelligently and unitedly on problems of national importance.

Largely because a great proportion of the American population is not aware of the gravity of the crisis, efforts to meet it have been stymied or disastrously delayed. The words of eminently qualified men like Wendell Willkie have fallen on unbelieving ears. Men in public office like Franklin Roosevelt have been hesitant to act because of the public reaction they know will occur. We must aid these men by learning enough to at least understand their positions, whether we agree or disagree.

We must, as President Roosevelt said, recognize it as our patriotic duty to continue our educations. We must be ready to accept the privations which heavier taxes in future months are going to force upon us.

It would have been easier to talk about the fun we will have in college. But, as I am sure what I have said will not seriously dampen our spirits, I am glad I have said it.

Hail Freshmen!

### THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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## CAMPUSEER

Hello, Freshmen!

(Editor's note: Because Campy, the literary marvel who regularly conducts this column, is taking a vacation from his vacation, I have delegated a stooge to go to bat. Take it away, Stoooge!)

Vice Versa, Too

Just to prove that freshmen aren't the only ones who don't know what it's all about, we'll tell one about some uppity upperclassmen. Several years ago a certain fraternity was patting itself on the back for pledging a prize rushee. What a boy! And what a suntan he had! All went well and the fraternity men were certain they hadn't made a mistake when they put a button on this frosh. Came Dad's Day and the freshman's poppa accepted an invitation to pay him a visit.

Dad was black as coal!

Glimpses of the Past

It's an old Collegian custom to devote the first column of the year to telling incoming frosh what and what not to do. Perhaps the best way to do that is to hold up previous neophytes as horrible examples. Here goes!

One of the prize freshman boners happened way back in '38 and concerns extra-tall Russ Eck, now graduate counselor of this "new and refreshingly different publication." Russ, then a proud Blue Key member was strutting up campus, his honorary lid comfortably settled on his head. A freshman, his curiosity aroused, followed Eck, halted him, and asked, "Are those the new dinks?" He got his answer when customs went into effect.

And then there was the buxom coed who wanted to know just how close Student Union brought students together.

Ray Watkins, schedule juggler, tells one about the bewildered frosh who stammered, "Who's my parent, my father or my mother?"

Scene—the walk in front of Main Engineering. Seen—two freshmen scrutinizing the map in a handbook. Obscene—"I'm wondering," one remarked, "what the letters 'PP' in front of Women's Building mean?"

In reply to the question on activities at registration, one would-be-bright lass scribbled: "Dancing. (Also unlimited possibilities along other lines.)"

Finally, we can't overlook the girl who, when asked why she came to college, tearfully replied, "I came to be went with but I ain't."

A Well-Deserved Bouquet

Orchids to Ridge Riley of the Public Information Office for the swell job he and his cohorts did in turning out the fraternity publicity pamphlet for freshmen. By presenting Penn State fraternities in their true light it helps to offset the countless harmful fabrications which give the entire College a black eye. Congratulations, Ridge!

STOOGE

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