

**THE DAILY COLLEGIAN**

"For A Better Penn State"

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Tuesday Morning, March 4, 1941

**Can The Fraternity System Compete With The Non-Fraternity?**

For a variety of reasons the fraternity system is declining at Penn State and elsewhere. Added up, these reasons mean that the fraternity system is becoming less and less able to compete with the non-fraternity system.

From a total of 57, the number of fraternities at Penn State in 15 years has declined to 46.

The most obvious inability of the fraternity system to compete with the non-fraternity system is in living costs. The average annual fraternity house bill approximates \$460. A non-fraternity man can live (not as well it is true) on \$360.

At some colleges this difference would not be important, but it is important at a state-supported institution which is designed especially to provide an education for students from the lower and middle financial brackets who otherwise might not get to college.

To a great many Penn State students the \$100 difference between fraternity and non-fraternity living costs is the difference between not coming and coming to college.

As long as it remains true that most men would join fraternities if they could afford them, the fraternity system is far from lost. Particularly is it far from lost if it can learn to compete financially.

Collegian consulted a fraternity treasurer the other day who sees no reason why fraternities can not go into financial competition with non-fraternity groups, although he admits they aren't at that stage now.

He represents a fraternity which, this year through good management on his part, will show a profit of \$2,500. If that profit were divided among the 40 members who paid house bills instead of being turned to improvements, the annual house bill would be cut to \$400.

That still isn't meeting the \$360 price, but this treasurer sees plenty of faults in his administration. In other words, he thinks it is possible to match the \$360 figure, or at least come close.

Reasonably, he asks, why shouldn't the same principle of lowered costs per person apply to a fraternity as applies to other groups which economize by mass buying? In other words, can't fraternities profit from mass production? The reasonable answer is yes.

The next question is why have they failed so far. The answer is poor management, lack of knowledge, buying by students who have never studied buying, managing by boys who have never managed before. Should anyone expect the ultimate in economy there?

Interfraternity Council is in a position to study this problem and to do something about it. Should it achieve a solution—and there are several that seem obvious—it will make up in a few months what has been lost over more than a decade.

The best agencies to do this might be the treasurers' and carters' departments newly created within the council.



**LION TALES**

(The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of The Daily Collegian.)

Just to be in step with the policy recently adopted by the other Collegian columnists, we will follow the new plan and present a gripe, support a May Queen candidate and then proceed to gossip a bit.

**Fix It, Please**

Will someone of authority please do something about the clock in the tower of Old Main? It seems to us that since the whole town sets its clocks by Old Main, the time should at least be accurate. But it isn't. One day last week it was a whole fifteen minutes off radio time, and even now the chimes ring five minutes before the hands show the hour. Can't something be done?

And now for May Queen! Let other columnists support who they will. We're for the girl admitted to be the nicest in college, voted to be the most popular, and obviously one of the best looking. Eleanor Fagans.

**It's About Time**

We were very pleased to see that Jean Craighead, who is undoubtedly one of the most outstanding women in the senior class, was finally recognized when she received the title of "Cap Girl" at the banquet the Theta Sigma Phi's gave for the lady shots at the Lion last night. It is hardly to their credit that the women of the college have taken so long to acknowledge their debt of gratitude to Jean. We have been given to understand that she has been responsible for the decorations at many of the coeds dances. She was secretary of her class last year. She has been a cultural leader on campus through her work on Portfolio, her art, and her interest in interpretive dancing. We should like to add our congratulations to those given last night. Here's to Jean Craighead; Penn State's all around girl.

The campus politicians are back at work—the boys who read every line twice to find all things bad in it. Ross Lehman, Collegian's political expert found that out last week after the opinion poll was published showing Len Krouse, Campus hope, with a 64 per cent corner of the senior class presidency. First Tom Henson, Campus chairman, burned the wires: "Whaddya mean publishing that stuff? You'll make our boys overconfident." Gerry Doherty, Independent manager, was on the wire as soon as Henson hung up: "Whaddya mean publishing that stuff? You'll discourage our boys and put everybody on the Campus bandwagon!" (P. S. —When the editor heard about that, he swore bloody murder and reminded whoever cared to listen that the Collegian and not the politicians would determine how Collegian would handle election news.)

**Letters to the Editor—**

**Librarian Explains Difficulty With Novels**

To the Editor: I would be grateful if the Collegian would publish this communication in some issue when space becomes available.

The primary purpose of the Library is to provide material for the program of the College, and almost its entire appropriation is used for that purpose. Many college libraries do not provide current books in both fiction and non-fiction fields. Here such books are provided in two groups—

- a. Books in connection with courses.
- b. Books for the recreational reading collections.

The question of availability for the borrower of a popular volume in current demand is always difficult. The Library has three possibilities—

- a. The postal card reserve system in use now. An extra copy of the book in demand is provided for each 10 postal reserves, thus insuring the reading of a particular book if the borrower is willing to wait for his turn. Many such books are limited to seven day circulation. Some time is lost when a borrower fails to call for his book even though notified of its availability. We cannot purchase an adequate number of copies so that everyone of the postal card reserves can be filled immediately for Library funds are far too limited. It is also true that if we purchased a large number of copies at once many of them would become dead wood on the shelves after current demand was over and every time a copy is duplicated it prevents the purchase of another title, perhaps in a different field.
- b. A second alternative is to eliminate the postal card reserve system and place all new additions on the shelves at once. This might help the borrowers who happened to come in soon after the books were placed on the shelves but it would have two disadvantages. (1) It would force the student to come to the Library a number of times if the book he desired did not happen to be in when he first came and (2) it would deprive the Library of an opportunity to gauge the demand for certain titles.
- c. If you are just interested in good reading, why not consult Miss Knoll, circulation librarian, for other desirable titles which are available?

The Library administration is anxious to find out what books are needed by the students. There are three ways by which a student may make a request for a new book or a suggestion about improving library service or register a complaint—

- a. Through the Student Library Committee appointed by the All-College President. This Committee consists of Samuel Patterson '43, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity; G. Ruth Hoffer '42, 314 Grange Dormitory; Charles Elder '43, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity; Marjory Harwick '41, Delta Gamma Fraternity; Stuart Garfinkle '41, 424 W. Beaver

**CAMPUS CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

- Pre-Med Society Social, Sandwich Shop from 8 to 11 p.m.
- Nutrition exhibit in Room 209
- Home Economics, 8 a.m. to noon.
- All College Cabinet meeting, Room 305 Old Main at 9:15 p.m.
- Radio Club meets in Room 418 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
- Student Union dance in the Armory at 4 p.m.
- Priestly lecture, Room 119 New Physics at 7 p.m.
- Campus '44 meeting in Room 318 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
- Meeting of Portfolio staff in Room 416 Old Main at 7 p.m.
- PSCA Forty Forum meeting in Hugh Beaver Room, 7 p.m.
- Campus '44, Room 318 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.
- Elections Committee meeting in Schwab Auditorium, 7:15 p.m.
- Campaign plans and budgets due at Student Union, noon today.

**TOMORROW**

- Coffee Round Table Hour, Hillel Foundation at 4 p.m.
- Iota Lambda Sigma smoker for industrial education students, Sandwich Shop, 8 p.m.
- Open meeting of Delta Sigma Pi, Room 121 Sparks Building, 7 p.m.

**INFIRMARY CASES**

A checkup last night revealed that 11 people are confined in the College Infirmary. They are Shirley L. Hayes '44, Donald M. Reynolds '44, Charles H. Seitz '43, grippe; Louise K. Schroppe '43, bronchitis; Isadore Zipkin, graduate, sinusitis; William F. Ramsay '42, Robert R. Dickey '44, Gayle E. Starr '44, observation.

Walter E. Snyder '41, John Fowler '43, William H. Matz '44, cases not diagnosed.

Ave.; David Finkle '41, 426 E. Beaver Ave.

b. Through a suggestion placed in the suggestion box on the main circulation desk. This box is inspected every two weeks. Book requests are taken to a book committee meeting and, if feasible, such books are purchased and the borrower notified.

c. Through personal conferences with the librarian. Such conferences are welcome if the student telephones in advance for an appointment.

Very truly yours,  
Willard P. Lewis,  
Librarian

**A VILLAINEROO**

- Is The Villain A Cad?
- Is The Hero a —?
- Is The Heroine Ruined?
- Can She Pay The Rent?
- Does She Pay The Rent? ? ?
- For Answers

—See—

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