

## With the Editor

Credit for the most democratic trick so far this week goes to Gene Fulmer for his open letter to the Junior Class, which appears elsewhere on this page.

While being so generous it might also be pointed out that knowingly or not it was also a shrewd trick politically.

But the reason we hasten to bestow our blessings on Mr. Fulmer is because we cannot think of a more democratic or fairer way to decide such an issue as that of "Shall there be corsages for dances?"

No one can come yelping to the Daily Collegian office shouting that we're trying to strangle free enterprise or that we are trying to set campus policies.

That campus policy will be set by this meeting we do not doubt. The Junior class is a large one. If the turnout is large, (and it surely will be from all of the TALK we've heard around campus) IFC and other groups planning dances will undoubtedly be somewhat

guided by student opinion as voiced openly by the Junior Class.

We cannot think of a better way to decide the matter. The decision will not come from the Daily Collegian; the decision will not come from any inner group that might happen to think it runs the Nittany Independent party (since Mr. Fulmer ran on the NI party ticket, it might be safely assumed that many party workhorses are on committees running the dance.)

Nor will the decision be one made by Mr. Fulmer (and either way that he might decide would bring vilification and abuse from those on the other side of the fence.)

Granted, the meeting is being held on short notice—tomorrow night at 7 in 121 Sparks. But if you are affected (or think that you are, even) then take advantage of the opportunity to attend.

It won't cost you a cent to attend; there can be no excuse that the house will be packed pro or con, or that some clique is controlling everything.

Every Junior can attend; every Junior should attend. It's your dance.

## Letters

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JUNIOR CLASS: For quite some time there has been a great deal of conversation concerning the necessity of wearing corsages to dances on the campus. This subject has caused much concern. It is for this reason I am writing you, every member of the Junior class.

All talk and no function had been the case until the last Panhellenic semi-formal dance. This group definitely came out publicly, through Collegian, and stated that the dance would be a no-corsage dance.

Now the time is approaching for us to have our dance and the question is again being discussed. Since the dance is a large affair, requiring lots of concentrated effort and planning, a committee was appointed and given the sole responsibility of carrying out every detail for the occasion.

The committee chairman has informed me that the committee feels this is a problem of such enormous magnitude (and of both a personal and social nature) that they do not wish to decide the issue alone.

Also, during the past month or so, I have received numerous phone calls and personal contacts asking me to personally decide the issue. Some people seem to think "no corsages"; others say we should have corsages; still others say it is entirely a personal matter.

I might at this point inject some of the opinions that have been expressed from both coeds and male students.

Some coeds feel that so many of the formal gowns are not tailored for wearing corsages—they

## Junior Class Problem

don't last very long anyway, are the comments of others.

While others say it adds something to the appearance and atmosphere of the dance and some appreciate receiving flowers.

From the opposite sex came similar comments. Some of the men think corsages are needed to make a semi-formal dance a success and some have the attitude, "If I wish to give my date a corsage, I don't want anybody telling me I can't do it."

Several men have mentioned the cost of the flowers as being too high; they say they have spent as much as seven dollars before they have even picked up their date (assuming that they have purchased their ticket in advance.)

I might say that some persons have stated that the fellow need not take flowers and everything will be satisfactory—to which comes the reply that social pressure is upon you—you must buy a corsage.

Now then, where does this bring us and what is the solution? I have contacted the members of the Junior class advisory board and we have agreed to have a special class meeting Thursday night at 7 p. m. in 121 Sparks and then have an open discussion on the matter. I would like to urge you to give some serious thought to this vital issue.

If you have an opinion on the subject we wish you would take this opportunity for expressing them yourself. It is my sincere feeling that this is the only way of facing the problem squarely instead of trying to dodge the issue at stake.

Eugene Fulmer,  
Pres., Junior Class.

## Politics In February

With everyone recovering from finals or busy wrestling with the problem of getting off to a good start on the new semester, the matter of campus politics seems remote.

Both political parties and the powers that be in the parties would probably prefer that the whole matter be dropped—say until a week or so before the elections.

But Mr. Branigan, chairman of the election committee, has mentioned the fact that elections will probably be held sometime in the first week of May. And that is a scant ten weeks away.

Surely ten weeks is not too much time to give to such an important issue as selecting candidates to run for various offices. Actually there is much less time, for it is customary to pick the

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## Collegian Gazette

All calendar items must be in at the Daily Collegian office by 4:30 p.m. on the day preceding publication.

### Wednesday, Feb. 12

- CRITIQUE business meeting, 5 Carnegie Hall, 6:30 o'clock.
- WRA CLUB presidents' meeting, WRA room, White Hall, 6:30 o'clock.
- AG STUDENT COUNCIL meeting, 103 Agriculture building, 6:45 o'clock.
- WRA MODERN DANCE Club, White Hall, 7 o'clock.
- PHI MU ALPHA meeting, 100 Carnegie Hall, 8:30 o'clock.
- FROTH EDITORIAL meeting, 8 Carnegie Hall, 7 o'clock.
- PSOA Cabinet meeting, 304 Old Main, 6:45 p.m.

### At the Movies

- CATHAUM: "Humoresque," Joan Crawford.
- STATE: "Saratoga Trunk," Gary Cooper.
- NITTANY: "Lady Luck," Robert Young.

### College Health Service

Admitted to infirmary yesterday: William Frankhauser.

### College Placement Service

Mr. W. J. Riley of the Westvaco Chlorine Products Corporation will be on the campus, Thursday, Feb. 27, to interview eighth semester chem eng, chem, MEE, EE men, and Ph.D. candidates in organic chem. Arrangements for interviews should be made at once in 204 Old Main.

nominees at least a week or two before the voting day.

Granted, the class officers now sitting in on All-College cabinet are capable men; but then, the campus politicians had all summed, to work on building slates before the present officers were elected.

We would like to ask the various parties to drop the Daily Collegian open letters to the student body—telling the students of this vast campus about party plans for next year.

Nothing definite, mind you, such as platforms or actual candidates that they have in mind. Something on the fourth-of-Julyish-liberty-independence-and-equality side.

Or is there a possibility that campus politics are fast slipping back to the "good-old-days" style of politicking when qualifications of the candidates were not as important as their fraternal affiliations or possibly the number of inches they'd garnered on the sports pages throughout the state?

We would like to put these questions directly to the parties but we have been told that one party is in the process of reorganizing and the other party seems to have closed-up office for the time being.

At any rate, if they haven't closed-up shop, they certainly haven't been answering their mail; the Collegian business office has sent them several letters in the past few months which they haven't acknowledged.

So, instead of asking the parties to speak, perhaps we could ask prominent members of each party to give the student body the story of what to expect when they troop to the polls early in May.

Perhaps Mr. Dick McAdams would volunteer to speak to, the Nittany Independent party; maybe Mr. Huston Brosious could tell the students what the Campus-Keyers are doing.

## Cabinet Agenda

TO THE EDITOR: Here is the agenda for the next All-College Cabinet meeting on February 13, 1947. As usual, if there are any important changes, I shall advise you prior to the Thursday edition of The Daily Collegian:

- Roll call
- Minutes of previous meeting
- Reports of Class Officers
- Old Business:
  - Rec Hall smoking problem—Moore
  - Further efforts to secure an All-College Flag—McChusky
  - Possibilities of getting free phones in Old Main—Smiley
- New Business:
  - Detailed report on work of National Continuations Committee since the Chicago Convention—Froste
  - Consideration of a contribution to the March of Dimes.

Robert T. Foote,  
All-College President

## He Throws Away Orchids

By Ruth Kirk

Harassed students worried about the soaring prices of corsages would be interested in meeting Mr. John H. Hildebrandt, who makes a practice of throwing away orchids.

An eccentric millionaire? A destructive orchid-hater? No. He's just the gardener at the Buckout Laboratory greenhouses. But, of course, there's a catch to it all.

"Sure," Mr. Hildebrandt says, "I throw them away, but seldom the popular commercial type. We have 53 species, comprising about 300 plants, and if I didn't give them away, I would be up to my neck in orchids." Orchids from every part of the world varying from six inches to six feet in height and from white to dark brown in color fill the greenhouse.

Mr. Hildebrandt attributes his success with orchids to Hans Oberhaus, of Germany, under whom he studied at the University of Pennsylvania.

Why is special training required? "Well," says this gardener, "orchids need a great deal of exacting care. The temperature, the atmospheric and soil conditions must be just right or results may be fatal to the plant. And realizing that it takes years for a plant to flower, you can see why I am so careful."

Since most of the orchids are gifts of former students, Hildebrandt feels they deserve special care. "Why, even the first orchid came from a graduate—all the way from China in 1896. And from such small beginnings has grown what I like to think is the finest orchid collection in the East, including many rare species,

the most valuable of which has a commercial price of \$800."

As a horticulturist he has expanded his orchid collection by cross-pollination, developing three new species. "This experimenting is a lot of fun," Mr. Hildebrandt says, "but it's also a lot of work. The spare time I do have? Well, I like to play the bassoon."

But what the flower expert slightly refers to as a hobby was once his chief interest and occupation. He played the bassoon with Sousa's band and Victor Herbert's band for ten years, but now the bassoon is put away for the spare moments, and the orchids are his chief concern.

## THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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