

# Prexy's Room

Two years ago—on October 3, 1947—the tenth president of the College died at 11:25 o'clock in the morning. Spontaneous expressions of sympathy came from many mouths, from the newest campus student to veteran College employes and townspeople who knew "Prexy" Ralph Dorn Hetzel as a personal friend.

Later in the day, the Daily Collegian published an extra edition recounting the many plans and aspirations for the College which he had expressed publicly and privately many times during his 20 year tenure as president.

**MORE IMPORTANT** than his plans, however, were the accomplishments of the College during the two decades characterized by Dr. Hetzel's vigorous policy of expansion and regard for the student welfare.

"Prexy" Hetzel was a stickler for good student government. That student function originated in the administration of President Edwin Earle Sparks (president 1908-1920) but reached its full development during Dr. Hetzel's tenure.

With the rapid enrollment increase in the administration of President Hetzel, a movement started with a view to effecting improvements in the existing system of student government. The result was a complete reorganization in March 1939 and the birth of All-College Cabinet—highest unit of student government at the College.

Since its inception during the reign of "Prexy" Hetzel, All-College Cabinet has served admirably as a unifying body for varied student interests, has passed legislation and has acted as an intermediary between students and the administration. Student government at Penn State has been termed one of the most advanced and democratic to be found in the country, and has been studied and copied by other colleges.

**ALL THIS IS** a tribute to Ralph Dorn Hetzel, proponent of effective student government.

In 1948, All-College Cabinet tried to reach a goal of \$5,000 in a campaign to establish a Hetzel Memorial Library which would contain books for recreational reading. Most of the books were to be sea adventure stories which "Prexy" enjoyed most.

But the drive fell short. A total of \$806 was collected. The idea of the Hetzel Memorial Library has not been fulfilled.

Last May the College and student leaders were in accord on plans to establish a student government room on campus—a venture entirely divorced from the idea of a memorial to Dr. Hetzel. A combination of the two—the proposed student government room and the idea of a memorial to "Prexy"—would fit together as easily as Blue and White.

Because he regarded students as something more than just people going through a four-year educational production mill, the title of "Prexy" was bestowed upon Dr. Hetzel. He valued this honor more than any of his academic titles.

Even more, he would value a living tribute within Penn State student government—the Ralph Dorn Hetzel Memorial Room.

# The Gripes of Roth

By RED ROTH

Last Friday I pictured the first week of the "rat race" known officially as formal sorority rushing.

To start off the second week of their rushing, the sororities hold an "at home" from 2 to 5 p. m., Sunday. If there was ever a misnomer for an event, this is it. If the girls being rushed had homes with the goings-on that characterize these affairs, they would all be so neurotic the medics would have them, not the sororities.

**EACH RUSHEE** dolls up in the best she can afford on her papa's allowance and trips merrily off to the Greek suites she's most interested in some day adorning—and to which she has been invited. Of the two considerations, properly the latter is the more important.

The girl may stay a maximum of one hour at each sorority she visits, and may not re-visit that group on the same day. Panhel explains this provision by saying that it avoids embarrassment in case a doll wants to leave, or the sisters want her to leave, before she grows moss on the divan.

From Monday through Thursday during the daylight hours they go through the "coke date" farce of a week earlier. This re-coke is to test whether the potential pledges have brushed up on their bridge during the interim or discovered any choice morsels of gossip at the Corner Room.

Then on Saturday comes the real clincher. The rushees hitch on their best girdles to hide the cokes they've been sipping all week at the "coke dates", painstakingly slip their best black formals over them, adorn themselves with their most expensive jewelry and attend a "coffee hour" at either one or at most two sororities, the choice having been narrowed down by this time. It's generally accepted that if a girl is invited to a chapter's coffee hour, she's "in".

A sorority coffee hour is like a scene from one of Mary Roberts Rhinehart's most maudlin novels. The girls really go for the sob stuff at this one. Everybody sits around looking as though they're getting ready to cry while the sisters, in unison, practically wail the chapter's beloved hymns at the uncomfortable rushees.

**THAT ENDS** the whole jolly business. Those girls that wanted sorority badly and gained admittance go around wearing ribbons; those that didn't go around wearing red, swollen eyes.

The unfairness of the system is evident to everyone—but Panhellenic Council.

What the sororities need, and what most girls want, is a longer, more informal period to survey the available pledge material.

Some college campuses, notably Randolph-Macon and a few others, conduct their rushing much like fraternities do.

**THROUGH A LONG** period fraternities have developed a system of rushing in which custom has almost abolished such dirty tactics as defaming another chapter. It is possible Panhel and its advisors feel the coeds have less moral fibre and would loop to such tricks if given a free rein? If that is true, it's a sad commentary on young American womanhood.

The ideal situation would be one in which informal rushing be conducted over the entire first semester, during which freshmen cannot pledge, with free intercourse between sorority sisters and rushees.

It would enable the girls to really **KNOW** one another when they're behaving naturally, not parading like show dogs at open houses, coffee hours, and the like. It would eliminate the two weeks of slow torture for the rushees and most of the unnecessary heartbreak and anguish.

Come on Panhel, get in step with the times, Your present rushing setup belongs in the museums with pikes and lances.

# Gazette

AMERICAN SOCIETY of Civil Engineers, meeting at Civil Engineers Summer Camp. Meet at ME lot, 6:45 p.m. Transportation provided.

FROTH CIRCULATION Staff, 1 CH, 7 p.m. Bring subscription books and money.

PSYCHOLOGY Club, 204 Burrows, 7 p.m. DAILY COLLEGIAN Junior Editorial Board, 1 CH, 7 p.m.

DAILY COLLEGIAN Editorial Candidates; newcomers interested in trying out for editorial staff, 8 CH, 7 p.m.

DAILY COLLEGIAN Advertising Candidates; newcomers interested in trying out for advertising staff, 3 CH, 7 p.m.

## COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Admitted Sunday: Harold O'Connor, Charles Drazenovich, Bridget Hollen, Harold Wollin, Gloria Thornton, Mario Santangelo. Discharged Sunday: David W. Streby, Elaine Solodar.

Admitted Monday: Richard Vetter. Discharged Monday: Harold O'Connor.

## AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM—Task Force. STATE—House Across The Street. NITTANY—Hamlet.

# The Safety Valve

## Sunday Recreation

**TO THE EDITOR:** One simple question: Why are the doors to the tennis courts locked on Sunday? If the golf course is open for golfers, what's wrong with playing tennis?

## —A WORKING GAL WHO

**ONLY HAS TIME ON SUNDAY TO ENJOY SOME OUTDOOR EXERCISE.**

**Ed. Note—**The College tennis courts open at 1 p. m., on Sundays, according to Dean Carl P. Schott of the School of Physical Education and Athletics. It is the policy of the College that none of the recreational facilities open until that time. This includes the College golf course.

# The Daily Collegian

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