

The Daily Collegian

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Dean Gladfelter
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Night editor: Bud Fenton; copy editors: Bob Schooley, Ron Bonn; assistants: Bettie Loux, Tom Saylor, John Sheppard, Dot Bennett. Advertising staff: Bob Koons, Barb Potts, Evelyn Marasovick, Mary Clymer.

Petition Urges Absentee Vote

Petitions urging establishment of an absentee voting law for Pennsylvania—a law which would facilitate voting for college students—will begin circulating in State College today. All students interested in exercising their political rights should be ready to sign the petition and to support this NSA movement for absentee voting to as great an extent possible.

AS THE PETITION points out, the right of franchise should be upheld strenuously in these days when democratic processes themselves are being questioned in the world battle of ideologies. Absence of an absentee voting law, which greatly discourages students from voting if it does not actually prevent them from voting, certainly does not uphold the right of franchise.

Student movements generally have been aimed at allowing the student to take on greater responsibility, usually in the field of college affairs. The absentee voting movement proposes to extend this responsibility into the field of politics, where the student of voting age has as much of a claim as anyone else.

All-College cabinet has pointed the way by giving its endorsement to the petition. Now it is up to the students themselves to lend support to the movement with their signatures.

Spring Politics

A small item in Thursday's Collegian reported that one of the two campus political parties will begin its operations for the spring elections this week-end.

So, here we go again. In a few more weeks, campus politics probably will, like June, be busting out all over. The cliques will be rounding up their members, selecting candidates, and corraling votes in preparation for the all-College and senior-junior class elections in April. And, once again, the campus newswriters will be able to report that "the political pot has begun to boil."

ALTHOUGH the elections are two months away, this is not too early for students to become interested in them. (The politicians already are laying the groundwork for their campaigns, no doubt.) In the next two months, the men and women who will be political leaders of the student body next year will be nominated, will place themselves before the electorate, and finally will be chosen.

The part the parties must play in this action is to select the men they deem best fitted to fill the various student positions. It is their duty to propose to the student body the names of men and women who are most capable of conducting the affairs of the students.

On the other hand, the part of the average student—the one not interested in seeking political office or actively participating in the campaign—is to vote intelligently for those he considers the best candidates.

Neither of these functions can be performed adequately without some knowledge of the candidates in the field. Thus, it becomes incumbent upon all Penn State students to look about for capable candidates and to get to know them, to meet them whenever possible, and to study their records. Such will be the major political activity in the weeks immediately in the future.

Factors Involved In 'Hell Week'

A question almost as old as the fraternity system itself is that of whether or not the custom of pledge "hell weeks" is a good one.

A glance from outside might indicate that "hell week" is to be categorically condemned, but a more analytical approach will reveal that some of its aspects have merit. Since an understanding of its merits is difficult for those who haven't the opportunity to see it in operation, responsibility for stemming the tide of unfavorable public opinion rests with the fraternities themselves.

WHAT ADVANTAGE does "hell week" provide? Most conscientious fraternity men recognize the need for instilling in their neophytes a feeling of responsibility and a knowledge of the effort necessary to successfully operate a fraternity house. They realize that without such knowledge, a pledge cannot become a sound active, knowing what he must contribute and how he must go about it. A work week can accomplish this.

Secondly, since most houses are members of rather extensive national organizations, it is necessary for incoming men to know and understand the customs, traditions, policies, and structure of the national fraternity. An accelerated and impressive course in such is provided by the intelligent "hell week" program.

The program, however, that includes these things and excludes the useless and harmful elements, is not truly a "hell" week, in the accepted sense of the word. It is perhaps unfortunate that the former terminology still applies.

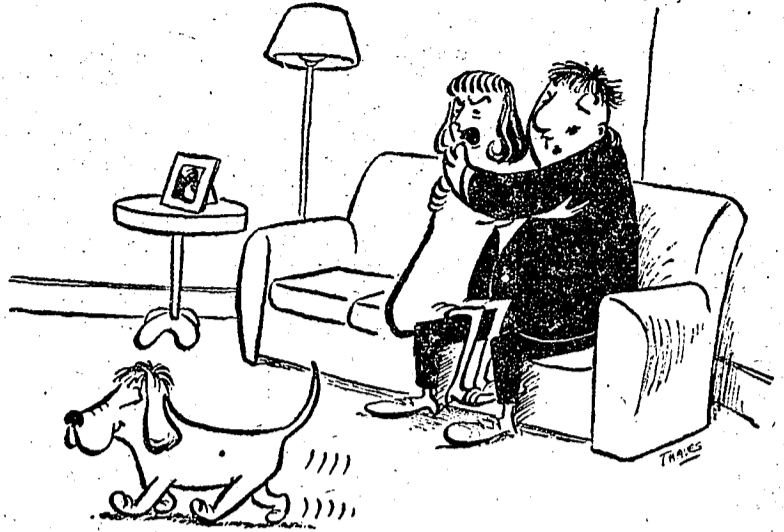
Unfortunately, too, is the fact that some fraternity men do not realize the damaging nature of activities which extend out of their houses and onto the campus. They do not recognize the poor light in which they place the entire fraternity system when they permit their activities to interfere with scholastic endeavor, rather than stimulate it as more and more programs are now doing.

ONE THING is apparent: that when fraternity men persist in carrying their pledge programs beyond the constructive and helpful, to fraternities and pledges alike, they provide grist for the mills of thoughtless crusaders who revel in playing the limit the few questionable activities for which the fraternity of the past was noted, and completely ignoring the growing maturity and social accomplishment of the modern fraternity.

Because of these self-conceived "Saviors of Society," the fraternity system faces a crucial test in the future and it will take careful planning and a mature outlook to meet it. This is not a condemnation of the mis-named "hell week" as it exists today, but an appeal for recognition of the dangers which accompany some of its remaining pointless features.

— Jack Boddington

Humor Angles



"There goes old blabbermouth. Now the whole neighborhood'll know."

U.S. News Outlines Choices Of Service

The U.S. News and World Report, national weekly magazine, this week contains a summary of regulations concerning the drafting of college and high-school students. The article should be of great interest to every draft-eligible student on campus. Appearing in the Feb. 16 issue, it emphasizes that "the youth who starts planning early has best chance to get what he wants" in the way of military duty.

U.S. News warns that "choice of service and type of training is likely to be more and more limited "as mobilization progresses. "Competition for favored spots already is intense."

Summarizing the "college boy's choices under the draft" in chart form by class group, the magazine reports:

FRESHMEN can apply for enlistment in Army, Air Force, or Naval Reserve officer training. Officer training guarantees deferment to complete four years of study and brings a commission. "Hard work" and "several years of active duty after college" are the price of this program.

High-ranking freshman students can enlist in the Naval Reserve and then apply for the reserve officer candidate program. April 15 is the deadline for applying. The Marines offer a "platoon leaders" class which requires summer training. Frosh also have the choices of enlistment in the National Guard or the reserves. Or they can volunteer now as enlisted men in any service with an opening, or this May when the Defense department promises students their choice of service. U.S. News says that "it's a calculated risk to rely on official promises."

If the freshman does not select one of these paths, he can expect the draft this summer if he's 19 or older. "In all probability," students under 19 will get into the sophomore year before the draft board beckons.

SOPHOMORES also can enlist in the Naval Reserve and apply for the reserve officer candidate plan, or in the Marines' platoon leaders' program. They can switch to an engineering or science course where deferments will be highest. However, some military service probably will be required upon graduation. Sophomores are accepted by the National Guard and the reserves. If they wish, sophomores can volunteer as, says U.S. News, "thousands have." Those who choose none of these should plan on the draft

since "about one out of two sophomores will be picked next summer."

JUNIORS, like their younger schoolmates, are eligible for the Naval Reserve-Reserve Officers Candidate program and the Marines' platoon leadership project. They have a good chance of being graduated if they stay in college, since "a high percentage of juniors will be deferred . . . if (the) Washington man-power policy is honored by local draft boards." Juniors can volunteer now, or in May, and obtain a choice of service. This, however, "wastes investment in college study," U.S. News observes. The Air Force has some aviation cadet openings.

SENIORS can enlist in the Naval Reserve and apply for a reserve officer commission upon graduation. Or they can enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve to enter officer candidate school, receiving discharges if they flunk out. This course begins after graduation. The last-year men can wait out the draft, a call being "virtually guaranteed" next summer. Seniors also can try for deferments; "about one out of 100 graduates may qualify as an essential worker—engineers and medical trainees seem to have the only real chance now."

With so many conflicting reports on man-power policies coming out of Washington and from other sources, it will pay the student who is eligible for military service to survey as many of them as possible. U.S. News has presented one of the clearest and best organized reports to date on the position of college men in the draft as it appears at the moment. The article is certainly worth reading in its entirety.

— John Ashbrook

• The Mechanical Engineering building is essentially a group of laboratories, each dealing with different fields. Laboratory equipment is grouped accordingly into steam power, internal combustion engines, refrigeration, fuels and lubricants, instruments, and calibration.

Gazette . . .

Sunday, February 18
ALPHA RHO OMEGA, slavonic society, 304 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 19
EDUCATION student council, 213 Willard, 8:15 p.m.

NEWMAN club, Catholic philosophy lecture, discussion, 204 Willard, 7:15 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Further information concerning interviews and job placements can be obtained in 112 Old Main.

E. R. Squibb & Sons will interview junior students who are interested in summer employment in Chem. Eng., Chem., Commercial Chem., and Science Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Arma corporation will interview June graduates in E.E., M.E., and Physics Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Merck and Company, Inc. will interview June graduates in Chem. and Chem. Eng. Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Armstrong Cork company will interview June graduates in Chem. Eng., Chem., Arch. Eng., I.E., M.E., A&L, C&F, Journ., Ed., and Advertising Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Linde Air Products company will interview June graduates at the B.S. and M.S. levels in M.E., Chem. Eng., Aero. Eng., C.E., E.E., I.E., and Chem. Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Allis Chalmers manufacturing company will interview June graduates in E.E. and M.E. Thursday, March 1.

Chance-Vought Aircraft will interview June graduates at all levels in Aero. Eng., E.E., M.E., C.E., Phys., and Math. Thursday, March 1.

Shell Oil company will interview June graduates at the B.S. and M.S. levels in Chem. and Chem. Eng. and at the Ph.D. level in Chem. Thursday, March 1.

New Jersey Zinc company will interview June graduates in M.E., Geology, Metal., and Mining. Eng. Friday, March 2.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

For information concerning the following jobs, applicants should stop in 112 Old Main. Student wife for fulltime commercial writing.

WRA SWEETHEART DANCE
WHITE HALL
Sat., Feb. 17
9 - 12 p.m.
Jack Huber's Orchestra
Vocalist—Polly Potter
SEMI-FORMAL
Girl ask Boy
\$1.50 Per Couple
(Proceeds for adoption of war orphan)

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State College's Friendly Store
BEAVER and ALLEN

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LAUNDERETTE
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Open to 6 p.m.
Phone 4785