

Early State Students Excel as Pranksters

By EVVIE KIELAR

History tells us that many of the first students here at the College seemed possessed of the devil.

Records exist which describe the early student in painfully lucid detail. Offenses included getting drunk in Bellefonte without permission, removing mules from the stables on moonless nights, filling study oil lamps with water, and stealing the chapel Bible as well as numerous chickens.

The researcher finds that many alibis were always forthcoming from the fertile minds of the offenders. One student requested to be excused from taking German on the ground that it aggravated his stammering. Another sought to avoid ROTC drill because it was developing his combative nature.

Wary Profs

An explanation of the description of early students might possibly stem from a misunderstanding harbored by parents that this was a new kind of correctional school and a fit place for only their most incorrigible offspring.

True or not, professors offered grace with open eyes then, lest their bowed heads prove irresistible targets for whizzing pats of butter.

Incidentally, students who missed or were late to classes were barred from meals for a day.

One of the several quaint customs which sprung up was the practice of burying effigies of profs on the front lawns. This could not be stopped until the 1920's.

A Continuous Effort

Then, too, there was the First Poster Night, when frosh were herded like Texas doggies into the nearby mountains and vigorously hazed.

Hazing was followed by the sophs' raid on the frosh class, turning the chapel and main floor corridors of Old Main into a shambles. The victorious sophs deemed their first little effort so successful that it was made an annual affair.

One freshman rashly defied the upper classmen. He barricaded himself in an old campus building called the Shivery Place. The sophomores promptly manned a nearby cannon which belched forth a barrage of vegetables, thereby breaking all the windows.

Mass Exit

One sensational incident before the turn of the century involved C. H. "Calamity" Musser and the Johnstown flood. It seems that "Calamity" failed to return from a vacation on time, alleging high waters as his excuse. Faculty members of the board who heard his story searched his honest face and promptly suspended him.

His class, '92, protested by bolting an examination en masse and further displayed its gallant spirit by engaging in a game of basketball.

For this act of insubordination,

the entire class was suspended. Undaunted, the class marched to the field near the University Inn and pitched tents, calling their little community Camp Suspension. There they resolutely remained until flood reports righted them with the faculty.

Wide Publicity

Another prank was committed by a student group which attended a singing school in Pine Grove Mills. They went equipped with all the ingredients for hydrogen sulfide, which started generating in the middle of the practice.

Our student group made the headlines of all the county papers as well as the Police Gazette.

They had a different way of handling the ratio in those days. The boys decided to punish the coeds, who admitted only a few favored callers, by ostracizing them.

Certain of these boys proceeded to organize the Four Hundred, a club which permitted no member to so much as speak to any coed on any pretext whatsoever, much less enter the Ladies' Cottage (Women's Building).

For the U.S.

In order to further punish these young women and to make a little money, the Four Hundred started the practice of holding an annual Mask Ball to which no girls were ever invited. This ball always won the sobriquet "most hilarious affair of the year" hands down.

The early students largely re-deemed hinted-at faults by their willingness to fight for self-preservation.

As early as 1863 records show that the College had to close for a short period when the students enlisted in a body to repel the invasion.

It was hoped that in years to come such gallant spirit would persist, but all in vain. Students simply do not do those things any more.

ICG Elects Officers

Alan Maloney was elected vice president of the Intercollegiate Conference on Government at a ICG meeting Monday night, and George Bond was elected business manager.

James Hand was chosen to replace Joseph Galati, who has left for New Hampshire with the recently activated 112th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

Leonides Amends Constitution

Leonides Council unanimously approved a constitutional change which eliminates the requirement of previous council experience for all members of the executive committee except the president and vice president.

Under the former rules, all members of the committee had to have served at least one previous semester in the independent women's organization. Nominees for executive positions had to be below seventh semester in class standing.

The new plan, approved Monday night, also gives the executive committee power to fill all vacated offices except that of president, which is automatically assumed by the vice president.

If neither the offices of president nor vice president are filled, other members of the executive board, which is elected by all independent women, will be given first preference in filling these vacancies.

Edda Iannelli has been appointed recording secretary. Marjorie Myers will head a committee to revise the Leonides pamphlet.

A committee to plan living unit programs includes Susan Crumley, chairman; Joan Grossman, Thecla Jawdy, Gertrude Kreider, and Barbara Mancini.

Patricia Hall will act as temporary parliamentarian for the council.

WD Schedule Dances, Dinner

Charles Brewer, social chairman for the West Dorm Council, yesterday announced the following social calendar for the area.

Friday—Valentine exchange dinner dance with music by the Campusers.

March 7—dance in main lounge, Jack Huber's orchestra.

March 21—St. Patrick's Day dance, Campusers.

March 28—dance in main lounge, Jack Huber's orchestra.

April 18—dance in main lounge, Campusers.

April 25—dance in main lounge, Campusers.

May 24—spring semi-formal, Jack Huber's orchestra.

Richards Mills, council president, said \$472 had been appropriated by the council for the dances listed on the calendar.

Oliver Heads Honorary

Dr. Robert T. Oliver, professor and head of the Department of Speech, has been appointed to a four-year term as governor of the Pennsylvania province of Pi Gamma Mu, social science honor society.

Co-Edits

Omega Psi Phi

Omega Psi Phi crowned Carolyn Morris queen of the annual coronation ball held Friday night. Miss Morris is a junior majoring in music education. Included in her court were Yvonne Carter, Charlotte Page, Carole Chew, Irene Johnson and Joan Ripley.

Phi Mu

Phi Mu has initiated Jean Beahm, Patricia Colgan, Elsie Jane Devlin, Martha Heckman, Doris Heister, Harriet Hilberg, Grayce Hope Jeffries, Jane McDavitt, Diana Mears, Mary Anne Moore, Patricia Pritchard, Joan Rosenberger, Lois Jean Ruth, Nancy Seiple, Emily Snyder and Betsy Younkins.

Triangle

New initiates of Triangle are Gifford Albright, James Babb, Rodney Beck, John Bricklemeyer II, Paul Brobst, Richard Dorrshimer, Donald Plasterer, Robert Rapp and Donald Schlegel.

John Hahn is a new pledge of the fraternity.

Phi Sigma Delta

New officers of Phi Sigma Delta are Leonard Kreiger, master frater; Donald Lench, vice master frater; Benet Rosenthal, treasurer; Donald Pripstein, recording secretary; Jay Poser, corresponding secretary and Irwin Gelb, historian.

Alpha Epsilon Pi

New pledges of Alpha Epsilon Pi are Arthur Brauer, Sidney Cohen, Stanley Greenblott, Marvin Hassett, Herman Kaufman, Lawrence Klevans, Frederic Marks and Gerald Miller.

Phi Sigma Kappa

Phi Sigma Kappa entertained Alpha Gamma Delta Sunday. Refreshments were served and group singing followed.

New pledges of the fraternity are Edward Carpenter, George Colonius, Wayne Conway, Marshall Donnelly and David Howells.

144 Students Enroll In Dancing Class

One hundred forty-four students have responded to the call for men and women who wish to join a beginners' dance class. The first 200 students who sign up for the class at the Student Union desk in Old Main will be admitted.

The classes will meet once each week from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the TUB. The program will be directed by Paul Kritsky, resident counselor in Hamilton Hall, and George Donovan, manager of Associated Student Activities.

Friday has been set as the sign-up deadline.

Joan of Arc was 17 years old when she led the French army to the relief of Orleans.

Naval ROTC Is Available For Women

Application blanks for the Naval Reserve officer candidate training program for women undergraduates are now available in the Dean of Women's office in 105 Old Main.

The forms, together with a physical examination, must be completed by Feb. 28 in order to be valid for this summer.

Under the program, college women enlist in the Naval Reserve, complete two six-weeks training courses given during two summers, and, upon graduation from college, are eligible to receive a commission in the Naval Reserve.

Those awarded commissions may be required to serve on active duty for 24 months during the present emergency and must be available for service in the event of mobilization. Candidates will receive pay while in training.

A list of inspector-instructors, the Navy representatives for the program who can supply full details, is on the magazine rack in the Dean of Women's office.

Baptist Fellowship Installs Officers

Edna Peterson was recently installed as president of the Roger Williams Fellowship.

Other officers are Barbara Jones and Carl Back, vice presidents and chairmen of program; Ruth Graves, secretary; David Irons, treasurer; James Justin, Inter-Church Student Fellowship representative; Janet Horger and Richard Austin, supper co-chairmen.

Additional chairmen include Albert Palmateer, The Link (RWF newspaper); Richard Brewer, devotion; Richard Knauss and Marcia Phillips, recreation; Richard Dailey, radio; Ruth Stuftt, music; Ruth Hammeil, membership; Michael Babel, deputations; and Olive Cals, publicity.

Phillips Heads NROTC Battalion

Rhys Phillips has been named midshipman battalion commander for the spring semester. NROTC officials have announced.

Phillips will replace Fredrick Rodgers, new company A commander, who led the battalion during the fall semester. John Barrons has been appointed battalion executive officer.

Other new company commanders are Lawrence Van Gorder and John Carney.

The purpose of the changes, Navy officials said, was to give cadet officers a chance to gain command experience.

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