

Brawn Over Brains—

Frosh, Sophs Battled 4 or 5 Times Yearly

Brawn rather than brains was the principal asset of freshman and sophomore students if they were to emerge unscathed from the class scraps that were part of the University during its middle years.

Beginning in the late 1880's and lasting until the 1920's, several hundred students four or five times a year took part in these mass brawls.

Whitmore Won Fame As Chemist

By NED FREAR

Frank C. Whitmore, Dean of the School of Chemistry and Physics from 1929 to 1947, was one of the most famous and respected men ever to work and teach at the University.

Dean Whitmore was a valuable member of the American Chemical Society, holding almost all the offices of the organization at one time or another.

He was respected far and wide for his invaluable research in inorganic chemistry, especially in connection with the war effort.

One of his more notable accomplishments was winning the Willard Gibbs Medal through the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society in 1945. The Gibbs medal is the outstanding medal in the chemical field.

Whitmore was Director of the American Chemical Society, a director of the Second Institute of Chemistry at Northwestern, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Electrochemical Society.

Whitmore, better known as "Rocky" to his friends, has been described as vigorous, warm, lovable, inspiring to those under him, and always busy. He was the man who "got it done."

He was extremely influential in the ACS, speaking at many functions and writing numerous papers. In one of his papers he set the entrance requirements for the society.

Whitmore also received the William N. Nichols Medal for chemical research in 1938.

Whitmore was born at North Attleboro, Massachusetts in 1887. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at Harvard by 1914. He taught at Williams from 1916 to 1917, Rice Institute for the next year, and at the University of Minnesota from 1918 to 1920. In 1920 he moved to Northwestern where he remained until 1927, when he first appeared at the University.

In 1927-28 Whitmore was chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the National Research Council. He was also a collaborator in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils in the Department of Agriculture. He was a member of the advisory board to the chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, United States Army.

During World War II, he organized and supervised a group of 35 instructors for Army Specialty Training and Navy V-12 programs. His personal wartime research related to aviation fuels, special lubricants, super-explosives, anti-malarials, synthetic rubber, penicillin, silicone, and camouflages.

'Practicums' First With University

Laboratory courses are commonplace in American universities, but the University is believed to be alone in calling them "practicums."

The term was derived from the manual labor requirement for students established in the act establishing the school in 1875.

As opposition to the provision of the act requiring students to do manual labor at least three hours daily, the labor detail was transformed into a "practicum" which finally became the conventional laboratory.

From time to time rules were established to reduce the physical damage to participants, but abrasions, lacerations, and contusions were frequent and fractured bones common. Even one death—a student who died when his lung was punctured by broken ribs—was recorded in 1907 in a scrap involving 500 students.

'The Rushes'
As to the mayhem involved, there was little choice between the many events which included the cane rush, the picture scrap, the cider rush, the flag scrap, and the banquet rush.

The cane rush was a "no holds barred" clash between the freshmen and sophomores to see which group could get the most hands on a cane. Held each year from 1888 to 1901, it was replaced by an interclass football game which was considered less dangerous.

Rules formalized in 1904 established the cider rush in which the frosh were to sneak a barrel of cider onto the campus past the watchful eyes of the sophomores and deliver it to the juniors. The sophs of course were expected to discover the plot and foil it.

Later the barrel full of cider was replaced by an empty barrel with padding around it to prevent injuries in the fight for possession.

'Stop the Picture'
The goal of the picture rush was for frosh to make arrangements for a class picture and for the sophomores to prevent enough of them from assembling for it to be taken. It was replaced in 1912 by a pushball contest, involving a six-foot rubber ball, after class sessions were being continually broken up with the cry: "Stop the freshman picture!"

The early part of the second semester was marked by the freshman banquet rush. The aim here was for the sophomores to prevent the freshmen from leaving town for the banquet held at Bellefonte, Williamsport, or other nearby towns. The last banquet scrap was held in 1910 after a furious tussle at the train.

The freshman-sophomore rivalry

Frosh Raise Their Class Flag



FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES engage in the annual flag scrap, popular at the turn of the century. It was one of several rough and tumble competitions engaged in by the two rival classes. Others included the cane scrap,

the freshman picture clash, the freshman banquet clash, and the cider scrap. Few holds were barred and as the scraps became more fierce their popularity wained until all but the tug-of-war are nearly forgotten today.

was climaxed toward the close of the school year by the flag rush. First the frosh tried to fly their flag from the tower of Old Main and later the spot was the tower of the Armory and finally the freshmen raised their own pole on campus.

Five-day Scrap

One year the flag scrap lasted from Friday night until 1 p.m. Tuesday, when the sophomores, outnumbered and outfought, gave up the struggle.

In 1919 the student body voted to abolish all the traditional scraps as being too dangerous to life and limb. Only two scraps were allowed—a tug-of-war and a tie-up battle. In the tie-up battle, both sides were supplied with a length of rope and the class binding hand and foot the largest number of the opposing class was declared the winner.

Dragged Sand Bags

A sand scrap with each side having to drag bags of sand across a goal line was tried in 1922, and in 1925 a pants scrap was introduced with each side attempting to tear off the legs of the opponents' trousers. However, both of these were short-lived, and after 1930 only the tug-of-war remained as the symbol of the struggle between the freshman and sophomore classes.

Class Numeral Painting Practiced in Early 1900's

Beginning in 1902, the class of 1904 started the custom of painting class numerals on the tower of Old Main.

This practice continued for several years with the classes trying to outdo each other in ingenious ways of getting the numerals up there. The danger of the practice caused the scene of action to be shifted to the Armory roof after

Slogan Old Custom

"Get It at Metzger's" was first used by L. K. Metzger in 1920. As one can see, only "You Can" has been added to what is probably State College's most famous slogan.

Metzger started his store while still a junior at the College in 1914.

a few years, and there it continued for some time.

Happy Anniversary

to Penn State University
on this your hundredth

MORRELL'S

112 S. Frazier

Congratulations Penn State

100 years young...



... and still growing bigger and better. Clearfield's is proud to be a part of your celebration, and of the growing university community.

Styles have changed greatly in 100 years, but like her grandmother, today's coed still likes to dress with all the smartness of the timely silhouette... And she finds her "timely silhouettes" at Clearfield's. The store that concentrates on you.

One hundred years is a long time. We've been serving the coeds of Penn State for only five of this first hundred, but you can bet we'll be here for a second!

Clearfield's

Opposite Old Main