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The Daily Collegian

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Hat Societies: Do They Tap Fairly?

The charge that hat societies are corrupt in their tapping methods is circulating campus again, as it always does this time of year.

Is the charge justified?

Some hat societies employ a point and interview system for selecting new members. Applicants send letters, listing their activities. A board, composed of some of the members of the group, rate the letters by a point system. Promising candidates are next called up before another board, or in some cases, the society for questioning.

New members are then selected by vote of the entire group or the interviewing board. Methods vary among the nine groups now in operation.

This appears to be a democratic procedure and few have complaints about this method itself. Gripes stem from its application.

Those societies with no apparent reason in their tapping methods are the ones most open to criticism. It is unfair to rejected applicants not to inform them of the basis for decisions. Rumors inspired by this lack of system are damaging to the societies as well as the members who are selected.

The charge that members are chosen politically—that the buddy system carries weight—still remains, despite the qualifying sessions aimed at selecting the students most worthy of wearing a hat.

The method of selecting new initiates could, we feel, be improved on two points. Hat society members who first screen applications need not know the names of the applicants. If they are selecting students to be interviewed only on the basis of activities, as claimed, they have to know only the applicant's surface qualifications: his activities.

We feel, also, that if old members of the

society—being no longer active—were on the interviewing boards, there would be less room for politicking. Old members might be more inclined to think of the society itself, rather than of close friends who are applying.

As it now operates, interviewers are just one year ahead of interviewees. Seniors interviewing freshmen for membership in a sophomore hat society might have a slightly less prejudiced viewpoint because they'd be less likely to know the applicant personally. This, of course, wouldn't cure the whole problem; fraternity brothers still are interested in advancing their fraternity, and therefore, its pledges.

But, it's our guess, while they still might be prejudiced, they'd be less likely to be as prejudiced as members with close ties with applicants.

Both these steps, we feel, would leave the hat society less open to charges of unfairness, and, by so doing, would help the group.

Hat societies can not merely shrug off criticism by saying, "This is our society and our business."

By their very nature, hat societies have an obligation to the student body as a whole, and to past, present, and, indeed, future members. They cannot shirk this obligation to be fair. Members are accepted by the public as students who have been designated leaders, and future leaders are tapped from these talent pools. It is important that hat societies select members with the qualities the hat they wear asserts they have.

The disappointment some students have for not making a hat society is keen. But the bitterness they display should never be justified. Hat societies have an obligation to see that fairness dominates their actions during the tapping season.

—The Editor

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



Look Who's Talking . . .

About Leaders

By JACKIE HUDGINS

So you're an athlete!

At most colleges this means long trips and scholarships—but at Penn State it means just one thing—you're bound to become a student leader before you graduate.

Six of the nine All-University officers for the years 1952, '53, and '54 were famous campus athletes.

If, as statistics show, athletic ability begets leadership ability, we recommend the new leadership training program be made compulsory for all well-known players of football, basketball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, wrestling, and golf.

Sports-minded men, by virtue of their muscles will, without a doubt, lead the undergraduates of the future and it is only fair that they be trained leaders.

The program set up by cabinet last week will be a step in the right direction toward providing the university with responsible leaders.

Of course the other solution is to make athletes out of all the present student leaders to keep these two apparently related fields of student activity combined.

The secretary-treasurer for two of these three years was on the University lacrosse team. And in the light of this discovery we advise that before the two or three cliques look for candidates for secretary-treasurer that they carefully screen all promising lacrosse players.

Since only one of the secretary-treasurers was a wrestler, we do not believe it feasible to screen all outstanding matmen.

The only drawback to this otherwise perfect system for selecting leaders for the University is the fact that the athletic-leadership classification leaves the women completely out. And since women participate in no varsity sports their chances for All-University leadership are slim. The problem is a serious one, but we have come up with a solution.

'Expose' Issue Of Froth to Go On Sale Monday

The lid's off. Froth pulls no punches in the May issue on the "newstands" Monday. It's the Expose' issue.

Learn the behind-the-scenes doings (without phone numbers) at Penn State in "Penn State Confidential."

Other articles for gossip-hungry readers include "Clean Up the Town Issue" and "The Confessions of a Little League Manager."

Where can you buy them? They'll be bothering you in front of the bulletin board on the Mall, the Hetzel Union Building, Waring Hall, and the Corner Room.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES
7:25 Sign On
7:30 Starlight Serenade
8:00 Weekly News Roundup
9:30 Scenic
10:30 Thought for the Day

When a Good Dean Leaves . . .

James W. Dean, assistant to the dean of men, handed in his resignation yesterday.

So now the independents will get a new adviser and dormitory counselors will be headed by another member of the administration but students will have to look a long time before they find another Mr. Dean.

The Association of Independent Men has made more progress during the two years that Mr. Dean has been its adviser than during any other period in its history.

According to reports from the National Independent Student Association of which Mr. Dean is an executive board member, the University's independent student organization is ranked second only to the University of Illinois. First place in the NISA Week contest was awarded to AIM and Leonides during the April NISA convention at Ft. Collins, Colo.

Mr. Dean has morning office hours in 119 Waring Hall where he meets with resident counselors and after lunch he may be found at his desk in the dean of men's office in Old Main.

Wednesday nights belong to the AIM board of governors meeting and a few minutes every day are reserved for a Collegian reporter.

Mr. Dean's little office in Waring Hall is always busy . . . usually with puzzled counselors, but quite often with people who just want to talk.

A man who can work as closely with his students as Mr. Dean does and still retain their deep respect is worthy of highest esteem.

Colleges all over the country would do well to have more Jim Deans. Penn State is happy to claim the original.

—Jackie Hudgins

Gazette . . .

Today
NEWMAN CLUB, Daily Rosary, 4:30, church; party, 8 p.m., student center

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Gerson Alexander, Robert Allison, Lorraine Cobosco, Dale Fenstermacher, Archibald Gentles, Mark Goldsmith, Glenn Heasley, Jay Livizex, Francis Markland, Samuel Mento, Asu Toshi Pal, Douglas Pease, Kenneth Sommers, Donald Wise.

All-University Officers Schedule Office Hours

All-University officers are holding office hours from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday in the All-University Cabinet room, 203 Hetzel Union.

At least one of the three officers will be in the room at this time daily, according to Philip Beard, All-University secretary-treasurer. Officers are: Earl Seely, All-University president; Robert Sturdevant, All-University vice president; and Beard.

Today Is Deadline For Delphi Applications

Letters of application for Delphi, newly organized sophomore men's hat society, are due by noon today at the Hetzel Union desk.

Second and third semester men with an All-University average of 1.0 are eligible. Letters should include the name, average, semester, and student activities. Letters should be addressed to Robert Segal, president of Delphi.


Journalism Professor Has Textbook Published

Donald W. Davis, professor of journalism and chairman of the advertising sequence at the University, has had his new textbook, "Basic Text in Advertising," published by Printers' Ink Publishing Company, New York.

The book, 665 pages in length, is designed for introductory advertising courses at college and university level. It will be used in Journalism 40, basic advertising course in the journalism department.



HORSE SHOW
May 7 and 8
Sat. and Sun.
at the
show grounds
Penn State Riding Club



Senior Ball Corsages

For the last big dance of the year be sure to get a corsage from Bill McMullen

Stop in and place your order today!

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122 E. College AD 7-4994



IT'S ALMOST HERE!

We know it --
How About You?
JOIN THE FUN of Spring Week