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# The Daily Collegian

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Editorials represent the viewpoints of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the paper, the student body, or the University.

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## Hell Week: Healthy or Hellish?

### ... It Can Help the Pledge and His House

Fraternity hell weeks are an intangible factor in a man's life. Many seemingly concrete arguments have been advanced against them and yet they persist. Why?

Is it because the brothers have sadistic tendencies that have to be satisfied? We do not believe so.

It is impossible to direct criticism against Hell Weeks in general because Hell Week will vary from fraternity to fraternity and from chapter to chapter within a national fraternity.

Undoubtedly vicious paddling sessions are out of place. But haven't fraternities eliminated such practices to a large extent on their own initiative?

This, of course, is a question that can only be answered by individual fraternity chapters, but we feel safe in assuming that most of the fraternities at the University have done away with these practices.

What about the bantering and "mental abuse" which hell week critics allege is heaped on the hapless pledge during his week of "terror." And can "senseless" stunts really better men, they further ask.

When properly conducted, these practices have a definite place in pledge training.

It is a measure of a man's feeling for his fraternity which enables him to subject himself to what appears to be a "senseless" stunt to an outsider.

Fraternities can only function successfully when every member is willing to suppress his own interests to some extent to further those of the group. Every good fraternity man can cite an instance when he had to forfeit his own idea and bow to the will of the majority. And a good fraternity man must not only accept the majority viewpoint, but must actively promote it in the interests of the betterment of the group. By forcing him to perform embarrassing and

lowly actions, such as singing for the entertainment of the brothers or shining shoes, a fraternity teaches the pledge that he is not "above" the group. By working on house projects, the major portion of which are often conducted during hell week, when he would rather be pursuing an individual recreation, the pledge learns to put the fraternity before himself and gains a feeling of brotherhood with his pledge brothers.

The pledge knows that the brothers have also gone through this probationary period. If he is intelligent, he will soon realize that it helped to give them that basic intangible necessary to all fraternities—house spirit.

Critics also contend that hell week is a negative approach toward teaching pledges to work together. Is this really true?

A major portion of hell week in most fraternities is the physical improvement of the chapter house. The fun and so-called "hell" is only a sidelight. The pledges work together painting, improving, and repairing. When the week is over they very definitely have a positive accomplishment to look back upon.

Finally, those who criticize hell week must remember that too much importance can not be attributed to the rumors that surround hell week.

The only men who really know what a fraternity hell week entails are fraternity men. Naturally, fraternity men are not going to broadcast the facts about hell weeks to outsiders because fraternities are, by their very nature, secret orders.

But doesn't it seem strange that if fraternity hell weeks were as bad as some would have us believe that more than four generations of college fraternity men would allow such a "senseless" practice to persist?

—Mike Miller

### ... It Remains an Out-of-Date Public Nuisance

Hell week is no good. It's no good for fraternities, their pledges, or the University.

This viewpoint is becoming more and more popular—both inside and outside fraternity houses—and for sound reasons.

Hell week, as generally seen at Penn State, is grossly out of date. If it ever had a place, it was in the era of coonskin coats, hip flasks, and goldfish diets. Today it has a place only in history.

In 1955, pledges have better things to do than count the windows in Pattee Library or subject themselves to mental harassment and physical abuse. But paddling, harmful horseplay, childish outfits, sleepless binges, juvenile antics—all remain. Why?

"I went through it," some fraternity men argue. "And, by gosh, the pledges are going to go through it!" This spit-in-the-eye-of-progress is no argument and no defense.

Others defend hell week by maintaining it gets necessary work in the fraternity's house done. This reason was advanced in an Interfraternity Council poll taken earlier this year.

If getting work done is the object, a lot more work could be done in a lot less time if the horseplay would be eliminated. Some houses, recognizing this, have instituted work weeks, as hell week's worthwhile replacement.

Hell week, some maintain further, unites the pledges. This it does. People going through any hardship together always emerge more united. But hell weeks create a negative unity. They unite pledges, at least temporarily, in animosity toward the brothers. If unity is the subject, a creative work week could also accomplish this.

While clumsily accomplishing two goals—uniting pledges and getting work done—hell week does so at a high price.

Hell week's price is public scorn of fraternities and the fraternity system. Neighbors lose sleep, borough and campus police lose their tempers, and fraternities lose respect.

Earlier this semester, realizing this, IFC attempted to curb the public nuisance of hell week. A code modifying some of the excesses of hell week was proposed. It was defeated, 25 to 22, with two abstentions. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, some fraternities adopted the code for their own chapters voluntarily.

But this is not enough. One out-of-line fraternity can impose restrictions on all.

If fraternities do not take steps to curb excesses in hell week, the University will. Fraternities are always sensitive about outsiders running their internal affairs. This is understandable. Likewise, fraternities must understand actions become necessary when they won't live up to their public responsibility.

Professors have been complaining for a long time that pledges going through hell week are academically valueless. And, they say, pledges snoring disturbs the rest of the class.

Unless fraternities demonstrate they can handle the problems they create, the University will take steps to curb hell week practices. And restrictions imposed by the University will be a lot more stringent than self-rule imposed by the fraternities.

It is in the best interests of fraternities that they curb their hell-raising practices, lest they themselves be curbed.

—The Editor

## What Day is Today?

Today is Pivot day! Not Froth—Pivot.

Froth is when there's a sexy woman selling an even sexier magazine. But Pivot, with a bit more description and a lot more talent, is the University's last remaining literary magazine.

Once a year poetry submitted by students is judged on the basis of its originality and worth, compiled, and presented to the students in the form of Pivot. This year, as an added attraction, the faculty has also contributed.

This year's issue commemorates the University's centennial and also marks the 100 years since the publication of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass."

The fact that Pivot has survived its literary predecessors, El Dorado, The Old Main Bell, and Inking, is proof that some students, regardless how few, still want a literary publication.

Twenty-five cents invested in a Pivot today

## Gazette ...

Today

CAMERA CLUB, Election of officers, 7:30 p.m., 213 HUB  
COLLEGIAN AD STAFF, 6:30 p.m., 111 Carnegie  
COLLEGIAN BUSINESS CANDIDATES, 7 p.m., 217 Willard  
COLLEGIAN BUSINESS STAFF, 7 p.m., 218 Willard  
COLLEGIAN CIRCULATION STAFF, 6:30 p.m., Collegian office  
COLLEGIAN PROMOTION STAFF, 6:30 p.m., 103 Willard  
HOME ECONOMICS CLUB, Clothing Interest Group, 7 p.m., Home Economics  
HOTEL, GREETERS, Election of officers, 8 p.m., Home Economics Cafeteria  
STUDENT HANDBOOK BUSINESS STAFF, 7 p.m., 208 Willard  
YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB, 7 p.m., 212 HUB

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

John Beres, Cyril Carroll, Rita Cofsky, Joyce Cox, Thomas Davis, Ruth Eshleman, Richard Klein, Lloyd Krull, Robert Piper, Joan Platt, Virginia Stuer, James Valeri, Lester Walters, Joseph Waple, Marilyn Ward.

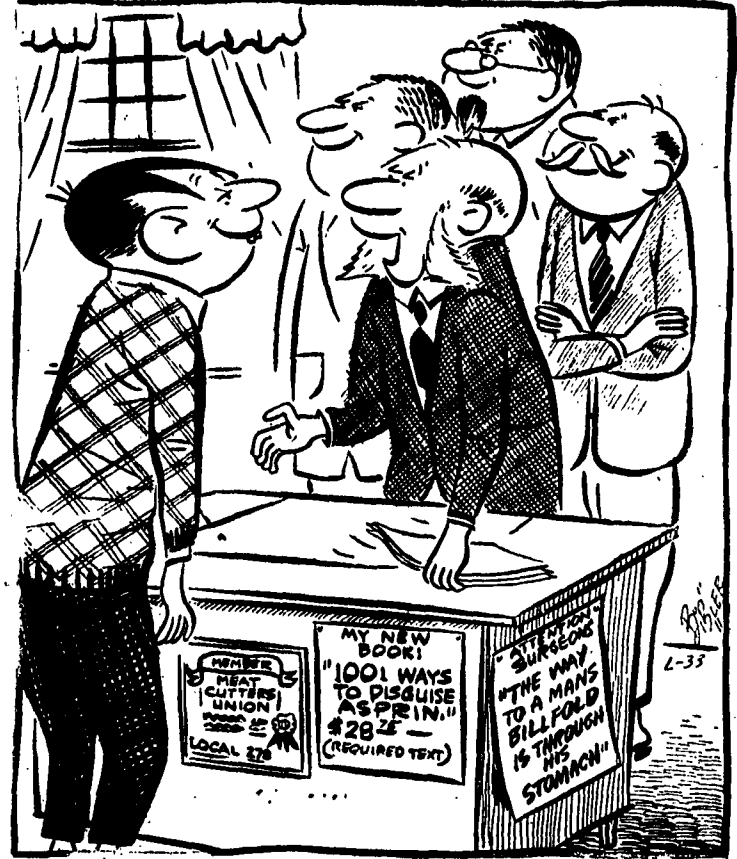
might be a determining factor in one segment of the University's cultural growth.

Of course if students don't want culture, there's always Froth.

—Jackie Hudgins

## Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Congratulations—Your written application for medical school has been accepted—we couldn't read a word you wrote!"

A Column of Clips...

## Today's Bargain... College Education

Compiled by MIKE FEINSILBER

Maybe the biggest bargain in America is a college education.

The cost is \$6000 and the college receives \$4000. The student receives \$2000 worth of bonus education. So estimates the head of a large insurance firm.

Devereux C. Josephs, chairman of the New York Life Insurance Company, said last week that this \$2000 loss per student is putting many an educational institution into difficult straits.

He estimated that, not including living expenses, it costs an average of \$6000 to educate a Bachelor of Arts and the average private college receives only \$4000 for this service.

### MAILMAN KNOCKS ONLY ONCE

Republicans announced with fanfare an attempt at restoration of twice-a-day mail deliveries a year ago March and started tests on double service in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Dallas.

But there's been no report on the result of the tests since they were announced. Fiscal troubles have halted progress on the GOP's 1952 platform promise of "more frequent" mail service.

### GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CLAIM TO FAME

George Washington made news last week. He joined the Philadelphia chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, brother group to the more well-known DAR.

Washington, general secretary of the Sons of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, is a descendant of the first President's family.

### HAPPY BUT DRY 109TH

"General" John Salling, one of three surviving Confederate veterans, celebrated his 109th birthday Sunday with a huge cake. He confided to visitors that he wished he could have an "occasional snort or two" of whiskey, which he's been forced to give up.

The general still smokes cigars because he receives a gift box every two weeks and "it would be a shame to waste them," he said.

### SHHHH

If New York is noisy, put no blame on the city's police force. They're tried.

In fact, during April the police made 3906 arrests, issued 1677 summonses and warned 13,082 persons about the noise they were making.

The arrests were made after warnings had been ignored, police said.

### STUDY OF STUDY

Harvard Graduate School of Education has received a \$50,000 gift to start a study of how American boys and girls can best be taught the basic history and workings of their country's government and economy.

## Interviews Set For Encampment

Interviews for students who wish to attend student encampment at Mt. Alto next fall will be held from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. tomorrow and Thursday in 218 Hetzel Union.

Ninety students will be chosen to attend encampment. Of these, 80 per cent, or 66, will be chosen by position. The remaining 20 per cent will be selected from those interviewed by the Encampment Committee.

Peter Kiefer, Encampment Committee chairman, said all students who wish to attend should appear for an interview, except those who have already been tentatively notified that they will be invited.

He said a final list of those who have been selected to attend will probably be presented to All-University Cabinet at its meeting Thursday night.

## ROTC Open Houses Scheduled for Thursday

Army, Air Force, and Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps units will hold open house in observance of Armed Forces Day Thursday afternoon.

The 112th Aircraft Control and Warning Flight of State College Air National Guard will also hold open house at the armory located on the University farms.

The Armory will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Various exhibits will be placed in the Armory, and a special exhibit will be set up on College avenue in the borough. Reserve Officers Training Corps units will march in a parade beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday.

## Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES  
7:21 Sign On  
7:25 Associated Press News  
7:30 Marquee Memories  
8:00 Behind the Lectern  
8:30 Music of the People  
9:00 Informally Yours  
9:15 News  
9:30 This World of Music  
10:35 Sign Off