

Editorial Opinion

IFC Saves Face

The Interfraternity Council—amid talk of the poor academic showing of this year's freshman class—defeated a motion Monday night to lower its pledging requirement for first-semester students from a 2.2 to a 2.0 average.

We can sympathize with the council members who feel their houses have lost some good men because a freshman obtained the 2.0 but not the 2.2 average. However, this is no reason why fraternities should lower their academic standards, especially after having just attempted to raise them.

If anything, this appears to be the time for the fraternity system to put more stress on scholarship. And included in this would be a re-evaluation of their current scholarship program and pledging program. We understand that in some houses up to 50 per cent or more of the pledges last semester did not make their average to be brotherized. This is indeed unfortunate—unfortunate for the individual fraternities and the entire fraternity system.

If the fraternities would stress scholarship to their first-semester rushees as much as they stress other aspects of fraternity life (including weekend parties), the rushees might have come up with higher averages, benefiting everybody.

The fraternities certainly should not want to take "academic risks" into their houses. If they do, they may return to school in the fall to discover a far-from-full house. This hurts not only the scholarship ranking of the house and the fraternity system but also the financial aspects of fraternities.

The IFC officers strongly opposed the move to lower the pledging average. They should be commended for their strong stand, for the fraternity system to have lowered its academic standards would have caused it to lose face.

Enterers and Exiters

During the 10-minute interval between class hours, mobs of Enterers and Exiters batter for their cause on the stairways of Boucke Building.

The Enterers, fighting valiantly to make classes on time, mercilessly batter small groups of Exiters, while the Exiters, given the upper hand, push their foes out the doors in an attempt to exterminate the race.

As long as there are swarming students and stairways, there will probably be no end to the Enterer-Exiter conflict. But we wonder whether they need be as bad as the one existing in Boucke.

Undoubtedly a one-way system would not work. This is because the location of the stairways, particularly since there is only one stairway leading out the main entrance. Cooperation and enforcement would also be difficult to obtain.

We think it might not be a bad idea for the University to arrange the stairways different in future classroom buildings. And, at the same time, it seems it wouldn't hurt to make them a little wider.

Lincoln Letter Given Library In Celebration

By ARTHUR EDSON WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (P)—The Library of Congress has been given a letter Abraham Lincoln wrote his wife in which he complained of the hard work in a campaign—and lightly passed over one of the greatest speeches he ever made.

The gift was announced today as a part of the ceremonies honoring Lincoln, born 149 years ago tomorrow.

It was presented by Lincoln's great-grandson, Lincoln Isham of Dorset, Vt.

Isham also gave the library:

• A confidential letter in which Lincoln defended a politician accused of being too fond of the bottle.

• A small card asking Gens. Burnside and Butler to see the unnamed bearer.

• A Bible presented to "Abraham Lincoln & lady" by Robert Turner, who probably owned a Baltimore feed store. Then, as now, presidential gifts showed up from unexpected places.

It's the letter on campaigning—which Lincoln scholars thought had been lost—that attracts the most interest.

It was written from Exeter, N.H., while Lincoln was on a swing designed to show that this tall, gangling country lawyer was a fit man for the presidency.

The date: March 4, 1860, exactly a year before he was sworn into office.

Lincoln had slaved over the speech he was to make in New York City, rewriting, repolishing, going almost daily to the state library in Springfield to recheck facts.

And then, on Feb. 27, he delivered it at Cooper's Institute. It was a triumph, but that would have been hard to guess from the way he put it to his wife.

After discussing family details, Lincoln turned to the problems of campaigning.

"I have been unable to escape this toil," he wrote. "If I had foreseen it I think I would not have come east at all. The speech at New York, being within my calculation before I started, went off passably well, and gave me no trouble whatever.

"The difficulty was to make nine others, before reading audiences, who have already seen all my ideas in print.

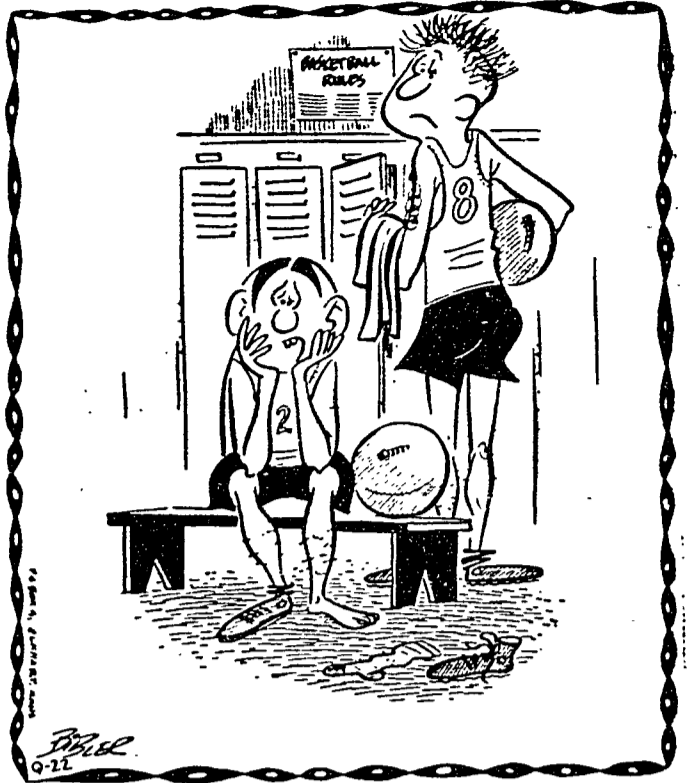
"Kiss the dear boys for father. Affectionately, A. Lincoln."

Passably well, indeed! Lincoln couldn't have known that the New York Tribune reporter, Noah Brooks, exclaimed after the talk: "He's the greatest man since St. Paul."

But surely he read what Brooks wrote in the pro-Lincoln New York Tribune: "The tones, the gestures, the kindling eye, the mirth-provoking look defy the reporter's skill. The vast assemblage frequently rang with cheers and shouts of applause. No man ever before made such an impression on his first appeal to a New York audience."

In short, Lincoln had scored—and was well on his way to his date with destiny.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



—So I asked him why he put me on th' third team, an' he said: BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A FOURTH.

From Here

Rocket Firings At the Corner

By Ed Dubbs

Rocketeering is fast becoming a favorite Penn State past-time.

And a favorite firing place seems to be the Corner. Unusual?

Well, not really, in the eyes of Steve Fishbein, WMAJ's man-about-town. "The Corner," explains Fishbein, a real rocket enthusiast, "is as good as any place to set off our rockets while waiting for a cup of coffee."

When the disc jockey first told us about his new rocket kick, we couldn't help but laugh. And Fishbein seemed hurt. "I want to do my part for America in the space age," the patriotic Fishbein said.

We left it just there. We didn't have the heart to comment about the space age value to spinning popular records, especially rock 'n' roll.

In fact, we felt proud of Fishbein. And, if the Corner didn't mind Fishbein firing rockets there, why should we?

"Wanna see me fire a rocket?" Fishbein said.

Not wanting to hurt his feelings, we nodded our heads affirmatively.

As Fishbein pulled his box of cigarets out of his pocket and emptied the contents on the table, we began to think the poor disc jockey had flipped his lid.

Then he removed the tin foil from the empty pack of Marl-

boros. We looked for Fishbein's tattoo. He had none. Our eyes returned to the tin foil.

He tore off a little piece and laid it aside. Then he pulled out a book of matches, all the while remaining extremely quiet as if a genius were at work.

Fishbein removed a match and proceeded to wrap the tip in the foil. Gently, meticulously he placed the foil around the tip.

Then he took a fountain pen out of his vest pocket and placed it on the table. "This," he said, "is the firing platform. Drinking straws, you might be interested, work very well as launching platforms too."

Fishbein placed the match in the clip of the pen.

"This is it. We're ready. I'll light another match and start the countdown."

He put the lighted match against the tin-foil tip.

"10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1/2, 1/4, . . . 0"

"It worked!" he yelled. "You see. It worked! . . . Where did it go?"

"In your coffee, Steve," we said.

Speaking of the Corner, we understand that when the new section opens up we can hope for quicker service. This will be indeed Unusual for the Corner.



Gazette

TODAY

- Brotherhood Banquet, 6 p.m., HUB ballroom
Carnival Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 212 HUB
Chess Club, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks
Collegian Classified billing meeting, 7 p.m., Collegian office
Discussion on "Viewing Europe by Slides," 7 p.m., 215-216 HUB
Gamma Sigma Sigma, all pledges must attend, 6:45 p.m., Grange Rec
AIM Judicial Board of Review, 8:15 p.m., 215 HUB
La Vie Staff Picture, 6:55 p.m., Penn State Photo Shop
Marketing Club, 7:30 p.m., Sigma Nu
Men's Debate preliminary tryout, 7 p.m., 316 Sparks
Monitor, Education Newsletter, 6:45 p.m., 107 Boucke
Nou Bavarian Schupplattler, 7:30 p.m., 110 Temp
Newman Club Novena Devotions, 7 p.m., Church
Parmi News, 10 p.m., Phi Gamma Delta
Pre-Vet Club, 7 p.m., 117 Dairy
Zoology Club, 7 p.m., 113 Frear Lab.

TONIGHT ON WDFM

- 6:45: Sign on and news; 7:00: Telephone Bandstand; 7:50: State News and National Sports; 8:00: Jazz Panorama; 9:00: Local, National and World News; 9:15: At Your Service; 9:30: Music of the People; 10:00: News; 10:05: Virtuoso; 11:30: News and Sign-off.

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