

Editorial Opinion

Educated But Insolvent

The Interfraternity Council has come up with an interesting—and potentially controversial—proposal to help solve the ever-present problem of debts owed a fraternity by a member who has graduated.

The proposal, which was sent to a committee after a brief discussion Monday night, is to recommend to the University that diplomas be withheld from graduating seniors who owe money to their fraternities.

Doubtless this threat could serve as a strong deterrent to those who would graduate in debt to their chapters—if the threat would ever be used.

IFC members who favored the proposal at Monday night's meeting seemed to want the University's action optional, at the request of the fraternity involved. But if the threat were optional, we wonder if it wouldn't be overlooked by many fraternities in the face of pleas and promises of future payment by the delinquent brothers.

But there are other and more basic points which seem to reflect badly on the advisability of the proposal, optional or not. The first and most important is that the "crime" and the punishment are completely inconsistent.

Graduation has nothing to do with debts owed a fraternity. A student's right to a degree is contingent on his academic output, and shouldn't be deprived him because of financial relations with his fraternity.

A diploma is a certificate of educational achievement, not of financial solvency.

If a fraternity wants to take action against a delinquent alum, it should do it in the normal legal manner. It could take a lien on his personal property—a more sensible and profitable move than withholding his diploma.

Also, the University should not be asked to condone a fraternity's financial practices that allow a student's delinquency to exist until his graduation. If the fraternity cannot take measures to prevent this delinquency from arising and continuing, the University should not be expected to pull the fraternity out of the fire on a last-minute appeal.

Fraternities should straighten out their financial matters themselves instead of asking the University to do it for them.

Where the Yellow Went

A Williamsport meeting of the Lycoming County chapter of the Pennsylvania Pure Water Association "blew up" last week when a number of doctors and dentists tried to transcribe the proceedings by the way of stenographers and tape recorders.

Members of the organization, dedicated to the principle that children shall not have finer teeth through fluoridation, said the doctors and dentists had "no right" to barge into their meeting armed with tape recorders.

The medical men said they were appalled at statements they charged were made by "pure water" advocates, including: "The United States Public Health Service is interested in fluoridation only to kill off a large number of people over 65 so that Social Security benefits need not be paid."

Some very sincere people oppose water fluoridation. But most of its opponents appear to be crackpots, who have advanced preposterous arguments against it, ranging from "mass medication" to "a Communist plot to poison our water supplies" to "a conspiracy by aluminum companies to get rid of their waste materials."

The people of State College can be thankful that their municipal leaders had the foresight in June 1954 to make the borough one of the first communities in the state to help protect the teeth of future generations through fluoridation of water.

Fifty-four Years of Student Editorial Freedom
The Daily Collegian
Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887
Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1931 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Price: \$3.00 per semester - \$5.00 per year.
ROBERT FRANKLIN Editor
FRANK VOJTASEK Business Manager

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Wire Editor, Don Casciato; Copy Editor, Carol Blakelee; Assistants, Helen McCafferty, Nicki Wolford, Katie Davis, John Black, Pat Gavan, Betsy Mulvey, Nancy Schiffman, Karen Bosler, Sunnie Greenbaum, Emily Nisley, Cordie Lewis, Edie Chun, Sally Hoover.

Washington

Legend, Critics Of 'T.R.' Still Appear Lively

By ARTHUR EDSON

WASHINGTON (AP)—Of all our Presidents, none matched Theodore Roosevelt in zest for living.

Even this year, when the country is observing the 100th anniversary of his birth, the mental image that arises is a little blurred, possibly because it's hard to think of Teddy except full steam ahead.

It's appropriate that even criticism of the great man by his contemporaries takes on a lively, robust air.

"That damned cowboy," the political boss, Mark Hanna, once called him.

"A smart aleck, a rough and uncouth person," said William McKinley, who had to take Roosevelt as his vice presidential running mate.

"What will happen to the country," Professor Woodrow Wilson of Princeton wondered after McKinley's assassination, "with that mountebank as president?"

"He seems to be an interesting combination of St. Paul and St. Vitus," said John Morley, British statesman and author.

Anyone who strives to overcome a handicap is likely to overdo it. But few have equalled Roosevelt at overcorrection.

A frail boy who liked to read, he looked like a natural for the indoor, contemplative life. Yet Roosevelt plunged into each day as if he were in the decathlon finals. He swam, he rode, he played tennis, he hunted, he hiked, he roughed it.

Even the White House didn't bench Teddy. He tried to get in two hours of vigorous exercise every day. He particularly liked to strike out across country with other outdoorsmen, climbing or swimming anything they came to.

"If we swam the Potomac, we usually took off our clothes," Roosevelt recalled in his autobiography.

"It is hard to come to grips with Theodore Roosevelt," Clinton Rossiter, an authority on presidents, has said, "just as it is with any boy of six."

When they do come to grips, historians usually put him in the upper fourth of the presidential class.

He may have been the eternal All-American boy, but he left behind solid accomplishments in conservation, in his uncanny knack to inspire others to work for good government, in foreign affairs.

Gazette

- TODAY
Air Force Glee Club, picture, 6:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
Conflict Deadline, 5 p.m., 2 Willard
Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
Judicial Board, 7 p.m., 213 HUB
Kappa Phi Christmas Banquet, 5:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation
MI Council, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Riding Club, 7 p.m., 217 Willard
Senate Subcommittee on Social Affairs, 10 a.m., 212 HUB
Sigma Theta Epsilon pledges, pledge and officer initiations, 7:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation
TIM Council, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
Vice presidents of women's dorm units, 5 p.m., Simmons lounge
Women's Choir, 6 p.m., HUB assembly hall
Zoology Club, 7 p.m., 113 Frear

- UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Veronica Antrim, Pamela Baker, Karl Boyer, James Cole, Robert Dockstader, Gary Englund, Remo Frangiosa, William Harman, Dorothy Harrar, Nathaniel Johnson, Norman Kahn, Gertrude Kelmeling, Bart Klimkiewicz, Ronald Kundla, Rbett McGriff, Henrietta Michaels, Marlene Neff, Ruth Salaman, Diane Siegman, William Spangler, David Stekol, John Taylor, Arlene Tomich, Sally Wenner, Margaret Bishop.

Greek Week Committees

Applications for Greek Week committee positions for the Interfraternity Council may be picked up at the Hetzel Union desk this afternoon and must be returned by 5 p.m. Friday.

Interviews will be held Sunday. Applicants will be notified of the time, Leonard Julius, general chairman, said.

Leadership Training Class

The Leadership Training class will hold its Red Tape Special at 7 tonight in 119 Osmond.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Who said he won't change a grade?—I got him to raise this paper from a 'zero' to an 'F'."

Take It or Leave It

A Lonely Man And His Birds

by Pat Evans

A learned, self-taught scientist has been isolated from humanity for 33 years and probably will remain alone for the rest of his life.

He's in solitary confinement at Alcatraz, the federal penitentiary on an island in San Francisco Bay.

Robert Stroud was 19 years old when he was sentenced in 1909 to 12 years in prison for manslaughter. In 1920 he was sentenced to be hanged in the yard of Leavenworth Penitentiary, in Kansas, for killing a prison guard after a fight.

But after four years and three trials, President Calvin Coolidge commuted the death sentence and Stroud was placed in solitary confinement for life.

This story of his years in prison was taken from an article in the December 1957 issue of Scientific American magazine.

The young prisoner began to study. He was nearly illiterate, since his formal education had ended after third grade. But he learned to read and write, and showed remarkable aptitude in his correspondence courses.

Stroud was removed from his 9 by 12-foot cell for an hour each day to walk around a small courtyard. This was his only exercise.

One day after a violent storm he came across three fledgling sparrows. They had nearly drowned, and one had a broken leg.

The lonely man received permission to keep the birds in

his cell and nurse them. They were his substitute for human companionship.

Stroud read all the books he could find on birds. He experimented and kept notebooks. Single-handedly and without any professional equipment he developed treatment for a mysterious disease which had puzzled ornithologists for years.

He wrote articles which appeared in bird journals. Finally, in 1931, his fame as an authority on birds moved prison officials to give him some laboratory equipment, to promise him a microscope and to promise serious consideration for a parole in 1937.

But his parole application was denied. His health had been failing for years, and in 1940 he barely recovered from pneumonia. Prison officials became less tolerant of his work. They refused him even the small quantities of ice that he needed in his studies of avian pathology.

A congressman appealed to the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Stroud's behalf. The director replied by charging Stroud with being "... a very difficult individual who has been

(Continued on page five)

