

THE ALMANIAN
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PLEDGE DAY
Pledge day for the women's literary societies has passed and the older women students of the college are now engaged in an attempt to reach financial stability and a position of authority once more.

The system of pledging among the women's societies has been changed considerably this year. In previous years pledge day came in the month of October. Previous to pledge day all intercourse between the older women and the new girls was strictly forbidden. The system had many faults which were of such a nature that it was discarded for this year. It was complained that the plan of closed rushing resulted in many girls becoming members of societies when had they but known it the women of the college with whom they should be associated by virtue of congenial natures were in other societies. Furthermore it was charged that the forced aloofness of the upperclasswomen made it very hard for the new girls to adapt themselves to the college and placed an early chill upon their hopes for new friendship.

While such faults were to be found under the old system the new plan has been far from being a satisfactory arrangement. To postpone pledging until after the beginning of the second semester seems to us to be a poor idea. The object of such postponement was, of course, to make sure that the new girls had correctly judged the older women and would be able to become affiliated with the group most suitable for them. While this may seem logical enough, it does not seem that in a college of Alma's size and with its compactness and easily knowable society groupings that such a delay is at all necessary. We doubt very much if the new pledges would have lined up any differently in November than they did last week.

Open rushing has not been without its troubles. The older women felt themselves forced to impress the new girls with the friendliness and social ability of their societies. Consequently bridge parties, spreads, special tables and so on have been very numerous, their main object being to further impress the new girls with the desirability of membership within their group. A very considerable expense item fell upon the older girls. Some groups of the new girls became so closely united with older groups that they might easily have been considered as members of some society, being only denied the privilege of attending meetings and being exempted from society dues. Still most of the girls feel that open rushing is a more desirable system, had it not been carried through so long a period.

There is also the darker charge that some societies pledged new girls for their groups long before the legal pledge day. To be sure such a charge is to be expected. Even under the closed system complications were arising because of violation of the rules.

But it seems to us that the greatest ill of the system of open rushing through an extended period has been the effect that the system had upon the new girls. Many feel that the proportion of very desirable new girls was much larger than usual this year. Consequently the societies worked doubly hard to impress these new girls. And as a result the new girls have been flattered into an exaggerated opinion of their own importance and have been instilled with a false sense of values.

It is very evident that the new girls this year are much different from those of ordinary freshman classes. They seem to have no fear at all for upperclass authority. It is reported that the freshmen girls who put down the rugs after dancing in the hall have been about the same girls each time and that the most sought after girls very seldom number themselves among this group. The circulation manager of the Almanian last semester experienced so much difficulty in securing consistent and conscientious freshman help that she refused to take the duties for another semester. The new circulation manager is experiencing the same difficulty and has limited her stay in the position to one month.

With pledge day now passed the difficulty falls upon the upperclasswomen to re-establish themselves in a position of respected authority. For a whole semester they have been forced to seek favor in the eyes of the new girls in order that their so-

ciety might attain the desired new blood. And the new girls have felt this, have never experienced the fears that the older girls look back to with pleasure, and are now waiting initiation into their societies in order to take an active and controlling part in its policies.

The two systems have had grievous faults. It is to be hoped that some manner of pledging may be adopted which will insure the new girls that they will become members of the groups most suited to them and that at the same time will not endow them with such exaggerated ideas of their own importance and charm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Editor:

I understand as how some of the boys down to the Zeta Sigma house have been setting you up to pull a few wise cracks in your old sheet about my moustache. Now I claim to be as broad-minded as any guy and can take a joke on myself without mixing my ketchup and olives any more than any one else. But I ask you is it fair to ride a fellow when he has long cherished an ideal and has put many years of conscientious effort towards the production of his ideal? Right now, when my goal is almost in sight I'm sure you are kind-hearted enough not to spoil things by calling folks attention to my moustache. I would appreciate it if you would not sign my name to this letter but just use my initials "L. H."

Gratefully yours,
Leslie Hawthorne.

To the Editor:

I think it is high time the attention of the student body should be called to the activities of a certain student who is selling his talent for money and allowing the college, so dependent upon his services, to go to pot. I allude, sir, to a certain individual who plays basketball, baseball, football, and sings in the glee club. Now it stands to reason that such a person is a decided asset to the institution. And yet a few weeks ago he appeared at a local theater and sang before the audience for which action he was financially recompensed by the management of the theater. That man is now a professional and is being protected by the M. I. A. A., the M. D. L., the A. F. L., the S. P. C. A., the G. A. R., and the G. O. P. against any further participation in collegiate activity. It is plain to be seen that he has, by his act, greatly harmed our college. It seems to me that an enraged student body should vent its spleen upon that individual.

Sincerely,
Carleton Neeland.

Dear ed,

I am not a person to seek publicity, but the rumor is going around that I took a certain course in Bible and that I tried to take it over again without recognizing it at all. Now anyone can see how maliciously false the rumor is but there are certain people that talk and others that swallow everything they hear so I want you to get the thing across straight to your readers. I am not so dumb that I didn't recognize that course at all. In fact the very words I said to Dr. Ewing when he called me into his office were: "I thought some of those things sounded familiar." Dr. Ewing will bear me out in this statement.

Yrs. trly.,
Bud Richards

To the editor of the Almanian:

I don't know who the guy is who writes for your paper and signs himself "F. P." You, as editor, should ought to of known better than to let that smart crack about my oration get into print. When I saw those words about "high school orations for high schools" I was going to come right to your office and lick you until I found out that you didn't have any office. Anyway when my father hears that your paper called the oration he wrote a high school oration you will probably get your nose pushed over onto the back of your head like you deserve.

Best love,
Homer M. Barlow

Dear editor,

If a big fellow, two feet taller than yourself called you a shriveled-up shrimp, a batty-eyed boob, a yellow livered yeg, and threatened to hang you on a meat hook, what would you do?

In perplexity,
John Erskine

Answer—I wouldn't, Johnny, really I wouldn't.

To the editor,

I hear that public men have songs written for their own special use. Do you believe this?

Ruth Hamilton

Answer—Why certainly, Ruth, certainly. Only last week Governor Alex Groesbeck led an audience at Michigan State College in singing "Michigan, My Michigan."

COLLEGE LYCEUM COURSE FINISHED

DeCou Pictures on Wednesday Evening Brought Course to A Close.

The final number of the college lyceum course was given Wednesday evening, at the Presbyterian church. The program was entitled "Dream Pictures" and was given by Branson DeCou who has traveled all over the world to secure the views shown. The views were thrown on a large screen and were beautifully and realistically colored. Mr. DeCou took his audience with him on his trip around the world visiting India, China, Japan, and Hawaiian Islands, the Panama Canal, and finishing the trip with a few views from some of our western national parks.

The pictures were accompanied by music appropriate to the setting, which emphasized the atmosphere of the different views and was given by the Ampico and Victrola. To say that the pictures were beautiful is putting it mildly. The audience was shown Bewildering Benares, Mysterious India, The Top of the World, (Himalayas from Darjeeling), Glimpses of Sumatra, Java, Singapore and Manila, China, the Land of Ceaseless Toil, Hongkong and Peking, Japan in Cherry Blossom Time, Kilauea in Eruption, as well as our western wonderlands and the Panama Canal, from original views taken by Mr. DeCou, who accompanied each picture with remarks calling attention to the most important features. Perhaps most beautiful of all were his many and varied views of the Taj Mahal in India, that marvelous structure in an equally marvelous setting. He showed views taken from every angle, and in varying lights, so realistic that one felt that he had actually been there and seen for himself.

The college lyceum course this year has been of an exceptionally fine character, each number being equally inspiring and enjoyable in its own particular field, and those who have taken in the course feel grateful to the college for making possible so really worth while attractions for Alma.

To the editor,

I am asking you for aid in a very urgent case. My husband is very much of a spendthrift. Yet hungry mouths must be fed so I asked my father to loan my hubby a thousand dollars. Daddy refused, saying that my dear husband was no good and called him a bad egg. What should I do?

Direfully,
Mrs. Raymond Hunter

Answer—Approach the old gentleman again, my dear, and use logic on him. Tell him it would be best to allow your husband to have the money since a bad egg is so much worse when it's broke.

Dear editor,

Can you tell me how to make a grapefruit?

Answer—Don't be foolish, Bob. It is now.

Delicate Instrument

A newly mounted radiometer is to be used in an expedition about to be made half way around the earth to take daily measurements of the heat of the sun in the interest of long range weather forecasting. The radiometer is so sensitive that the ray of a candle situated 7,000 feet away and focused upon it is sufficient to turn its vanes through several hundred scale divisions. Even the face of an observer, when placed in the position previously occupied by the candle, will produce a deflection of twenty-five scale divisions. It has been suggested by a humorist that with this instrument one might almost note the approach of a friend, while still some miles distant merely by the glow of his countenance. It might even detect the sun in an English summer.

Little Need for Muscle

Two thousand years from now man may have hoofs, says Prof. Conrad Tharaldsen of the zoology department of Northwestern university. He will probably have a huge dome of a head, a spindling body dumpty legs and feet something like those of a horse. As a result of inaction and little need of muscular strength man's arms and legs are a ready beginning to dwindle in size, says the professor. Mechanical inventions are rapidly doing away with the need for muscle, he says, and lack of use is causing the muscular portions of the body to degenerate. But man's ever-growing brain will need more room. As a consequence his skull will get bigger and bigger until it resembles a dome.—Pathfinder Magazine.

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February 17-18

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and LEW CODY

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"Exchange
of Wives"

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February 19-20

PETE MORRISON

—in—
"A Desperate
Game"

Sunday to Wednesday
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February 21 to 24

MARION DAVIES

—in—
"Lights of Old
Broadway"

Remember
"Little Old New York"

COLLEGES FEAR THE CHARLESTON

Ruined Buildings Declared to Be
Outcome of Strenuous
Dance.

The Charleston menace is now stalking the American colleges, according to news reports from all parts of the country. If these stories are credible the present rage will leave in its path a swath of ruined buildings unequalled in extent in this country since Sherman's memorable march. In fact Georgia may, if she wishes, claim the honor of the first collegiate catastrophe. A floor caved in at the State College for Women at Atlanta. Nearly 500 girls students were "prancing furiously in attempts to learn the new dance when the floor collapsed with a loud crash."

Here and there authorities have enacted prohibitive legislation. At the University of Indiana the board of trustees has forbidden the dance in the Student Building in order to forestall the structure's collapse. An investigation is now under way to determine the Charleston's effect upon the Men's Gymnasium, where it is still permissible to execute this violent dance. Should this floor give away there would ensue a total and wholesale immersion of the heated dancers in the swimming pool below.

Graceless

"After all," reasoned the authorities at the College of William and Mary, "dance should emphasize grace and beauty, and as the latest fad preserves neither of these qualities, it should hold no place on the program of college dancing." Consequently they placed a bar on the dance. Which, slyly remarks the "Wellesley College News," "may or may not be a case of sour grapes."

At Coe College the Charleston was banned in dance halls by city officials. The "Daily Illini," University of Illinois, fears for local fraternity and sorority houses. Students of Tulane University, La., who attended the annual Freshman-Sophomore dance were presented with little notes from the faculty which read, "You are requested not to dance the Charleston tonight."

A mythology has already grown up about this cyclonic step, the girls at Smith college have discovered. Because third floor girls in a certain dormitory occasionally studied, the powers that be decreed that no third floor girls be permitted to Charleston in their rooms. The event was duly recorded (and distorted) in the press and the Smith girls read in the papers that the rule had been passed in the nick of time in order to save the toppling building and many lives. —New Student

TEN YEARS AGO

January 17—Alma college provides "town and gown" banquet for trustees and friends from town. Speeches given by Dr. Barkley, Ira M. Hatch, L. A. Sharp, and President Crooks. Endowment plans outlined.

January 18—Dr. Russell H. Conwell delivers his famous lecture "Acres of Diamonds."

January 20—Womens' Oratorical contest held in chapel. First place, "Human Compliments" by Bernice Ireland; second place, "A Modern Jinn" by Adelaide Ballou; third place, "The Melting Pot" by Ruth Dutt.

January 21—Mt. Pleasant wins basketball game 24-19.

January 28—Albion wins 26-23.

January 29—Wright Hall girls entertain men of the college at a Leap Year party.

February 4—Burton Thatcher, bass-baritone, gives lyceum number.

February 4—Ypsi wins 20-10.

February 5—Detroit College of Law wins 16-9.

February 8—Silliman and Brownell scholarships given to Harry Staver and Bernice Ireland.

You have to make allowances for a son when he is at college.

MEN SHAVE IN U. C. CLASS TO "SHAME" CO-EDS

Three men students at the University of California, sat in the class room of Professor Ira B. Cross and shaved themselves. As a result, they will receive "A" grades in their course in banking.

The men called the professor on his recent denunciation of co-eds who powder their noses in class.

"I'd just as soon have the men come in here and shave during lectures," Professor Cross declared. "And I'll give any man an 'A' who does it."

So Arnold Murchie, John Kimble and Wallin Carlson carried their razors and soap into class and while the other students looked on amazed, calmly proceeded to lather up and cut 'em off.

After the operation, Professor Cross called the trio before him and complimented them.

"It's a fine idea," chorused the three. "It gives us a chance to sleep a bit later in the morning. We're willing to do it every day."

DEBATERS REVEL AT SHARRAR HOME

(Continued from page 1)

for the destruction of our government when Mr. Sharrar announced that if "Red" would inject some enthusiasm into his remarks, entertainment would be had at the Sharrar homestead later in the evening. The scarlet-combed youth brightened, and amid chondrous applause delivered himself of a speech that would have vastly cheered Senator Borah's heart and cast terror into the State department.

So at eleven-thirty that same evening Cecil MacDonald, "Red" Clark, "Midget" MacDougall, Frank Kinney, Homer Barlow, and Ron Harris approached the Sharrar residence. The host was absent but Kinney produced a skeleton key (would you believe it?) and the company entered, turned on the radio, helped themselves to volumes from the professor's economics library and sat down to await the host's return.

When that individual arrived MacDougall was elected cook and a magnificent repast was prepared, much to the devastation of the kitchen. (You understand, of course, that Mrs. Sharrar was not in town.) The meal disappeared and a crumb of toast being left for manner's sake, the party gathered around the radio and listened to the host's lamentations that he was unable to get anything out of Detroit. The announcer spoiled all this by suddenly proclaiming that he was at Jacksonville, Florida.

Until far toward dawn the party sat and listened to the famous readings of Mr. Sharrar. To deceive the detectives the group announced themselves as the "Inter-Society Debating club" and with sundry sympathetic remarks concerning their bed-ridden brother, Mr. Nisbet, the group adjourned once more to the prosaic things of life.

PHI BETTA KAPPA GIVES REPLY

(Continued from page 1)

in education. It may be that in some cases those who are administering the affairs of the chapter are not as careful as they might be to appraise these other qualifications. The fact that these are in our theory of elections should be recognized.

"It is a very simple matter, of course, for a young man to manifest a supercilious attitude toward Phi Beta Kappa. That can only be the case when he fails to appreciate the serious purpose of our organization, its remarkable history, and the great number of distinguished men and women in other generations as well as in our own who count it an honor to be members. You can readily see that we do not worry at all when they take this attitude. Phi Beta Kappa will not miss them. They will miss an association which might be exceedingly helpful and consequently are the only losers."

To the editor,

I am much interested to see the faces of our president on coins and bills. Do you suppose that if I applied myself diligently I could get my face on some money?

Paul Westfall

Answer—I am very much afraid I won't be able to help you, Paul. All of my efforts have been directed towards getting my hands on some.

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AROUND THE CAMPUS

The German measles terrorized the students for a few days last week. Nisbet and Closser were reported as the victims of the malady. Steve's case attracted the most comment and sympathy. The illness set in following his strenuous efforts in the debate at Durand. Due to the advice of Dr. Lamb and the insistence of the boys at Latimer's the patient took a short rest cure at the hospital. Two of his bosom friends, Ross Ostrander and Ron Harris, performed the sad office of taking him to the pest house. This was accomplished with difficulty, the friends being forced to fight off the efforts of the attendants to put them to bed, each one of them looking far sicker than the rosy-cheeked Steve. When the invalid discovered that he would be forbidden to speak at the Lincoln banquet or take part in Friday's debate serious complications set in, these being mostly in the nature of an agitated vocabulary. The Almanian is pleased to announce that Steve is with us once more and is eagerly looking ahead to Friday's debate and Saturday's enjoyment of the Washington Banquet at Olivet.

Last Friday was Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The students were aware of the fact because on this day one of the literary societies holds its annual banquet. The downtown business men knew it also. Two flags were displayed, one of them be-

ing in front of an establishment run by native-born Greeks.

"The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceedingly fine." We have heard a quotation something like that. It is very appropos to the new seating in chapel. Last year in order to have seating room in chapel and to inject vigor into the singing, a choir was made up from the choice members of the glee clubs. But for a year the members of the choir could realize only that they really were chosen individuals. They sang not neither did they read responsively. They chewed gum and exchanged winks with the less favored members of the student body. They whispered and studied the next hour's assignment. The last two rows generally attended through roll call. They were bad, very bad. But they have been cast from the high places and the rest of us greet them with joy as they take their seats among us once more.

Because the Phis held their banquet in Saginaw many of the alumni and former students who attended the affair were not seen by their friends in Alma. Among those present were: Clare Vreeland, Gussie Sturtz, Marjorie Furman, Lois Gates, Ross Calkins, Helen Calkins (Helen Mason), "Prince" Williams, Forrest Freeman, Ralph Nickols, John Shroyer, "Peg" Poole, and "Tubby" Sartor.

CAMPUSOLOGY

R-U-A-J?
A-B-C-D—goldfish?
L-M-N-O—goldfish!
O-S-A-R—goldfish.
O-I-C-D—goldfish.

"Rastus, is my bawth warm?"
"Yassab, the warmest ah was evah in."

Night Watchman—Young man are you going to kiss that girl?
Jack (straightening up in terror)—Oh, no sir!
N. W.—Well hold this lantern then.

Jack West—"Ray! 'Ray! Goodie Goodie!"
Miss Landwehr—What's the matter with you?
Jack—You said we'd have a test today rain or shine?
Miss Landwehr—Well?
Jack—It's snowing!

"When you have an argument does your girl take part?"
"My wart! She takes all of it."

MacDougall is said to be so lazy that he sets potatoes out in the sun so that they will get sun-burned and peel.

Bob—I gave Mike a Valentine card with two hearts on it.
Chuck—The deuce you say.

Prisoner 1050—Yes, I get half my sentence off for good behavior, but it ain't goin' to do me no good.
Visitor—How's that?
Prisoner—I'm in for life and they've got to wait 'til I croak before they know what half my sentence is.

Nurse—Mr. Maloney, you are the father of quadruplets.
Mr. Maloney—What? Them things that be runnin' around on four legs!

Teacher—Kindly yodel a few bars of vaudeville.
Abie—If your frau is fond of fainting and you want to learn her not, I'll tell you of a way to cure or kill, Chust turn der hose right on her where she's lying by der floor, If nudding else will cure her, vaudeville!

Lawyer—What do you mean by making a fool out of me in your paper?

Managing editor—I'm sure I don't understand Mr. Smith.
You lost your law-suit against the Bricklayers' Union, and we wrote it up in the usual way.

Lawyer—Yes, but what did you mean by the headline: SMITH LOSSES UNION SUIT?

No, Raperta dear, you cannot call a store where sentimental valentines are sold a mushroom.

Frosh—I can't for the life of me see what keeps these girls from freezing to death this weather.
Senior—Tush, my boy. You aren't supposed to see.

Hunter—Sorry, I took you for a deer.
Guide (bandaging up leg)—You're wrong. I'm the goat.

A phonograph makes terrible noises when it's almost run down. So does a pedestrian.

"What does your roommate like?"
"Oh, most everything I got."

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in
"HANDS UP"

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ESTHER RALSTON
—in—

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An eye-ful of beauty, with a wonderful story

Saturday, Feb. 20th
"Abie's Irish Rose"
Needs no comment; it speaks for itself.

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 21-22-23
ALICE JOYCE

in
"Mannequin"
From Fannie Hurst's Liberty Magazine \$50,000 Prize Story

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High School Basket Ball

HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Preliminary
Ashley Girls vs. Alma Girls

Game called at 7:15