

THE ALMANIAN

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ALMANIAN PLATFORM

1. Completion of the Alma College building program.
2. The ALMANIAN an expression of student thought.
3. Immediate completion of the new athletic field for use.
4. Better and closer relations between students and alumni.

THE DIRECTOR'S DECISION

The faculty and student representatives of the M. I. A. A. schools, exclusive of Hope, have met at the request of Alma, and the decision upheld Judge Advocate C. L. Herron in declaring Simmons ineligible. Alma sought the meeting in order to give legality to any proceedings which might be taken against the protested Alma men. And Alma got the legal ruling of the association directors, but we cannot say that there was one shred of justice handed out to Alma at the Albion meeting. Professor Ewbank of Albion, the moving force of the action against Alma, was clever enough to absent himself from the meeting, but the ruling against Simmons was all prepared and run through very shortly in spite of the protests of Faculty Representative Ditto of Alma.

We base our protest of injustice on two main points. In the first place it was claimed that a secretary of Professor Ewbank, who is Secretary-Treasurer of the M. I. A. A., had made an error and omitted the rule which would make Simmons ineligible from the minutes of the meeting at which the new constitution of the Association was drawn up. We can term such a statement as nothing else but a bald lie. The directors had in their possession sworn statements by three members of the Alma faculty stating that Professor Clack of Alma had made a motion that such a rule be put in the new constitution, but that his motion failed because of the lack of a second from any of the representatives of the other schools. So it is very plain why Professor Ewbank's secretary did not include such a motive in the minutes of the meeting.

In the second place, it was claimed that an interpretation had always existed in the M. I. A. A. rules that a transfer student coming to an Association school from a school outside of the M. I. A. A. should meet the same requirements in order to participate in athletics that a student going from one M. I. A. A. school to another should meet. This much of this statement is true. It was a requirement under the old constitution, but such a ruling died with the old constitution in as much as a rule to that effect was not put into the new constitution. Yet in spite of these definite facts the directors ruled a man ineligible under the rules of the old constitution, which is now null and void.

But a legal decision has been made against Alma, and Alma must accept it however unjust it may be. But to our way of thinking a great deal more is attached to the decision. We might properly ask—of what good is a constitution in the M. I. A. A.? Is it merely a "scrap of paper" to be violated whenever a majority of the member schools decide to pass action against some other member school? That is all it has been in this instance. We maintain that it is a highly dangerous precedent for any athletic association which prizes its fair name to have set. And it is not out of place to remind the schools which joined the action against Alma that the "powers" of the association may decide at some future time to treat them as they have Alma. It is worth thinking over.

Two things have been made very clear by this case. And if a majority of the institutions will spend some thought on them Alma's protest may not have been in vain. Number one is—the M. I. A. A. should have and has a great need for an outside, impartial Judge Advocate. Review the wavering our present "czar" has shown this year. After the football season Professor Herron ruled the three Alma men protested as entirely eligible for M. I. A. A. athletic competition. Then the mass of letter writing and mud slinging started, and the result was that the Judge Advocate, with all the association including his own school against Alma, reversed his decision and named the protested Alma men ineligible. It was this action that Alma disputed and which led to a special meeting of the directors. And at the meeting our Judge Advocate shifted ground

once more. At this time he called Simmons ineligible, but declared Wagner eligible. Surely such proceedings show the futility of having the highest authority within the association and within range of the influence of the other schools. The Almanian strongly advocates a neutral Judge Advocate for the M. I. A. A. Such an office could be filled by a faculty member from Michigan State College or the University of Michigan.

Another thing has been well illustrated—that something is radically wrong in the Secretary-Treasurer office of the association. Whether this is the fault of the organization of the association or of the present occupant of this position, we leave to better judgment. But at the present time the M. I. A. A. schools resemble nothing as much as goats with Mr. Ewbank holding all the lead strings. We feel that it is high time that the goats exercise the proverbial instinct and butt into this situation and clear it up. If the present situation is anyone's fault it is certainly to be located in this department. When minutes of the last meeting were looked for to clear up the present case, it was found that Secretary Ewbank had not issued copies to the members schools as the rules require him to do. A great deal of confusion might have been eliminated if the gentleman had fulfilled his office properly. And in using his office to attack a student of another institution through the newspapers the Secretary has not only violated such an office, but succeeded in making an unmitigated ass of himself as well.

Concluding, the student body of Alma College bears no ill feeling toward the student bodies of the other association schools. It is realized that their opinion was against Alma, yet we believe that it was an honest opinion, arrived at through the reading of a great deal of misleading and unwarranted material. We welcome and deeply appreciate the attitude of the Albion College Pleiad, "Whatever the outcome, Albion should be the first school to clasp the hand of the up-state institution. Alma's history and its traditions are too valuable to lose sight of—life is too short for any of us to pick a permanent quarrel." We entertain the same sentiments toward Albion and the other association schools. We hope that this editorial will justify our position to the other student bodies, at least it will make our stand clear, and that is necessary to future esteem and friendship.

Note: This editorial is printed despite the fact that Mr. Snell, our student M. I. A. A. representative, came with authority from a college official to countermand anything appearing against the directors' decision. We hold that our office as elected representatives of the student body carries with it the duty of stating student opinion, and that we believe, we have faithfully accomplished. We make this statement so that no readers will construe this as an official college statement. It is a statement of the student publication entirely.

THE STUDENT'S PART IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In a recent chapel address President Crooks spoke concerning the trend of higher education. It was one of his predictions that in the future, no one can say how far distant, the students would be called on to pay the entire cost of their college courses, instead of the small part which they contribute at present. This was the opinion of a conference of college officials which President Crooks attended.

We had not thought of that angle of the trend of higher education. We are not satisfied that it would be a desirable thing, for surely smaller numbers would attend our colleges. Colleges would have a money exclusiveness. Nevertheless it is a matter in which the students will have little to say. But the statement fitted in very well with some ideas we have been entertaining in regard to the position of the students in the future of higher education. Undoubtedly the student is developing into a force to be reckoned with in all our colleges. Student opinion is being molded into a definite thing. Students are beginning to know what they want to better conditions in their colleges and universities, and to some extent are gaining such recognition. For instance, the idea of student grading of professors is attracting wide spread attention, and has been carried out in some schools very near to our own. In many colleges the Student Councils are enjoying increasing power and responsibility. Most student bodies control their own honor in scholastic endeavors by means of the honor system.

Students are taking an interest in campus problems up to this time unprecedented. At the recent meeting of the National Student Federation of America at Ann Arbor such problems were gone into very thoroughly,

and the student recommendations as to methods of solving have been printed in these columns.

Definite student opinion has played a part recently in national life. Student opinion has generally condemned the administration for its attitude towards Mexico and its interference on behalf of the Diaz faction in Nicaragua. At a mass meeting of all the students of New York City reported in the New Student resolutions were passed condemning our "unjustified invasion" of Nicaragua and asking that "no steps be taken that will break off further friendly relations with Mexico." College opinion as evidenced in the editorial columns of college publications and by letters and telegrams from student groups to government officials have carried the same sentiments.

With these facts in mind it is no far fetched prediction, that when the day comes when students will pay all of the cost of their education, student opinion will be of paramount importance in higher education. It will be another example that money talks. And the students will demand that their views for the betterment of our educational system be observed. Student bodies will not tolerate high-handed officials and professors, they will come into control. From this viewpoint, it may prove to be the greatest development in higher education that the future shall witness.

A FRANK APPRECIATION

If there is anything wrong with college newspapers they themselves are not aware of it. One scans their dreary pages in vain for any admission of incompetence. Some of the more intelligent papers contain criticisms of the administration or student body, but never of the student newspaper.

That is the chief indictment to be brought against the college newspaper. It is not critical enough. As a result, it is not self-critical enough. That makes for dullness, inevitably. It is no wonder that E. C. Hopwood, editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, writing in the August number of

(Continued on Page 4)

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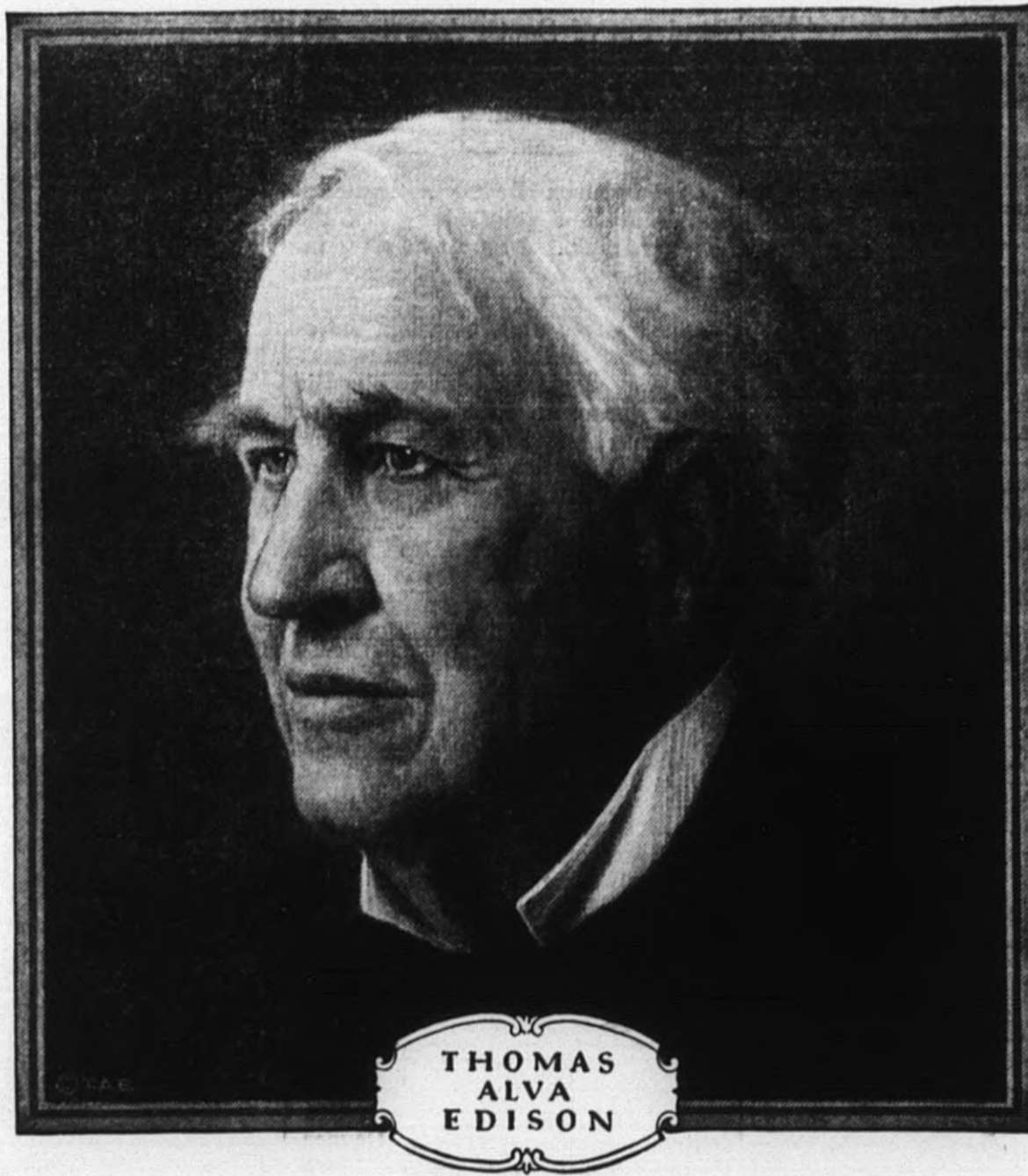


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in

"The Ice Flood"

Saturday, Feb. 5

TIM McCOY

in

"Winners of the
Wilderness"

Sunday to Thursday,
Feb. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

VILMA BANKY and
RONALD COLMAN

in

"The Winning of
Barbara Worth"THOUGHTS MORE OR
LESS LITERARY

A new fad has appeared in New York circles and Vanity Fair for February 1927 prints 100 questions concerning art and literature. This list was taken from the book "Ask Me Another" prepared by Lucien Esty and Justin Spafford and published by the Viking Press. Just to give you an idea of this interesting questionnaire I include a few questions in this column.

Who designed the Campanile at Florence?

What was the Barbizon School?
What are the Elgin Marbles?
Who composed Lucia di Lammermoor?

Who was "The Good Gray Poet"?
What author has written many works dealing with a mythical country called "Poictesme"?

Seven cities have claimed to be the birthplace of a great poet. Who was he?

Hubbard's Scrap Book and other popular cultural agencies evidently have accomplished wonders.

Last year the New Harpers presented in serial form Christopher Morley's provocative story 'Thunder on the Left.' This created a sensation because it was different and just a trifle puzzling to many. Doubleday and Page published the novel and then experimented in a new type of book advertising. For several weeks a column or so of space in the Saturday Review of Literature was devoted to a number of letters from readers of the book who expressed their opinions pro and con. 'Thunder on the Left' became a "best seller." Moreover, editions have appeared in Finland, Sweden, England, Australia, Denmark, Holland, France and Germany.

This is all mere introductory to the query—Have you been reading Morley's latest novelette "Pleased to Meet You?" (Harpers, December, January and February.) It is really a delightful tale, humorous to a degree and different. The story tells about the post-war difficulties of the Laborite President of Illyria, debt-ridden country adjacent to Graustark. He has a daughter so it is quite natural that a young and handsome representative from Geneva is introduced. The President, in fact the entire Executive household, becomes dependent upon this extremely efficient gentleman. He attends to the Hon. Quackenbush and family from the U. S. A. as well as to other affairs of state. Thanks to a rather old device arrangements for paying the debt are made and finally a clever settlement of the lovers' problem is reached. Read it, for you will surely enjoy the story. 'Pleased to Meet You' will then serve as an excellent prelude to the reading of other writings of this gifted American author.

Christopher Darlington Morley was born at Haverford, Pennsylvania, May 5, 1890. His father was a professor at Haverford College from 1887 until 1900 when he moved to Baltimore to take the chair of pure mathematics at John Hopkins. Christopher graduated from Haverford in 1910 and was then awarded the Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford as a representative from Maryland. He entered New College and three years later returned to America to begin working with Doubleday and Page in Garden City, New York. While with this publishing company he drew the attention of his employers to the merits of William McFee's writings.

Morley has been connected with the Ladies Home Journal, the Philadelphia Evening Ledger and for two or three years he conducted an editorial-page column, 'The Bowling Green' for the New York Evening Post. The sale of this last named newspaper caused a change in policies and several men were dropped. Shortly afterwards Dr. Henry S. Canby launched the Saturday Review of Literature. Morley contributes to this important periodical each week and devotes the remainder of his time to free-lance writing.

Morley has several volumes of essays to his credit: Shandygaff, Mince Pie, Travels in Philadelphia, Pipefuls, Plum Pudding, The Power of Sympathy, and The Romany Stain. He has written other stories besides 'Thunder on the Left'—Kathleen, Parnassus on Wheels, The Haunted Bookshop, Where the Blue Begins, a collection of short stories—'Tales from a Rolltop Desk', and he wrote with Don Marquis "Pandora Lifts the Lid." His poetry caused E. V. Lucas to write in the introduction to the English edition of 'Chimney-smoke.'

"Here he is established without a rival, on his own ground, as the poet of the home. If we are to look in literature for a kindred spirit to Mr. Morley's we find it rather in the author of 'The Cotter's Saturday Night.' But Mr. Morley is at once more modern and more modest. And he is more whimsical and original as an appreciator."

I have planted a few guideposts here and assure you that they lead to many hours of enjoyable and oftentimes profitable reading.

Do you recognize the Father of our Country in the following quotations from W. E. Woodward's biography?

"His mind was the business mind. He was not a business man, in the modern sense; he did not live in a business age. But the problems which he understood and knew how to solve, were executive problems; and he approached them in the great executive manner. His type of personality is not uncommon in America. There are many Washingtons among us today. I know six or seven. Such men are usually found in executive positions in large-scale industrial or financial enterprises."
—Horace.

NICARAGUA POLICY
CONDEMNED BY STUDENTS

(Continued from page one)
States, which is trying to possess itself of all the sources of wealth in our countries." This declaration of Latin American student aims is quoted from an article by Senor Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, New Student, May 24, 1924.

Besides opposition to American Imperialism, this student movement, which is firmly rooted in the universities of all Latin American countries, has many other activities. They have an active voice in university policy, bringing about the dismissal of objectionable professors. They support the workers in struggles for a better social order; in several countries they operate popular universities in which workers and peasants are educated. Their latest goal is the political unity of all Latin America. Their chief obstacles in this effort, according to Haya de la Torre, are the imperialistic Nationalism rampart in the various Republics.
—New Student.

SONNETS

The members of the English Lit class were requested by Professor Hamilton some time ago to attempt the writing of sonnets. Below are two which the class believed outstanding. It is hoped that critics will not be too harsh, for this college does not yet boast of Miltons or Shakesperes.

There was a time as fashions go to show,
That ladies fair were modest, mild,
and meek.
But nowadays the man can never know
From what drugstore come roses on
her cheeks.

She once wore dresses sweeping up
the floor
And always blushed, perchance her
ankles peeked
From neath her skirts, but now her
dresses soar
Above her knees. I vow I'll never seek
A maiden from the story books of
old,
For take my oath, the woman of my
day
Is not the frightened, swooning lady
told
About in romance books of ancient
lay.

O gentle lady, tell me this, you'll
swear
That you will never longer dresses
wear.
—Henry Rollo

I would not die if you should care no
more,
No languishing nor self-inflicted end,
No tear stained cheeks, if you love
not as yore;
I shall live on though bitter words
you send.

I would not tempt your pride on
bended knee
If you should bid me go forth from
your grace,
Nor seek to flatter you with ardent
plea,
E'en though another lover take my
place.
And yet, neither in writing nor in
speech,
Are there the words by which I may
express

My love for you, so I can but beseech
Ability's not mine love to confess.
Though falseness would not end what
'gan with birth,
Yet I love you beyond all things of
earth.
—Charles Nims

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Philos Enjoy Debate

I peeped into the Philomathean Society room, Monday night, January 17th and what a strange sight met my startled eyes. I beheld—oh, I'm sure that my very own eyes saw this—I beheld Ethelyn Adams and Gertrude Melody in taut attitudes staring balefully into each other's eyes.

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20% of students were dropped last year because of poor scholarship. N. Y. U. had the highest mortality with 30%—Yale the lowest with 12%.
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February 6-7
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Tuesday and Wednesday
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FLORENCE VIDOR
in
"The Popular Sin"

When my reeling senses had recovered sufficiently, I looked more closely and saw Neva Stinchcomb and Kathrine Boyd ranged at Miss Melody's side, while Bernice Azelborn and Mary K. Burt supported the doughty "Skinny."

As I looked Mary K. drew a deep breath, extended one arm as if grasping a tray, and balanced on one leg talking all the while. Then I noticed the other Philos sitting about the room convulsed with laughter. My curiosity—ever the bane of women, led me on, and advancing into the room I made humble inquiries into the cause of the whole affair. You see it was like this—

An impromptu debate was "sprung" on these unsuspecting damsels and they were making the best of a bad situation. The question for debate was Resolved: "That the swipes should wear roller-skates." "The agitation which I beheld was nothing more than the affirmatives, Bernice, Mary K., and Skinny, staunchly defending their belief with no little opposition from the negatives. Many interesting lights (as well as shadows) were cast on this very vital subject.

The affirmatives sponsored these statements:

1. The initial cost would be small compared to the upkeep of shoes.
2. It would be a good advertising stunt for Alma as an "up-and-coming College."
3. Coffee and toast would be served in an unusual state of warmth.
4. Skates would enable the bungling swipe to make a quick get-way after spilling the soup.
5. This movement might even save on dishes for then aluminum ware would be necessary and the diners would be spared the agony of hearing the crash of breaking dishes.
6. Skates would appeal to the "little-boy" hearts of the swipes thereby causing them to smile occasionally thereby giving a festive air to the dining room.

The negatives just as firmly maintained these points:

1. The money saved on shoe leather would be expended in hospital bills for those swipes who have no sense of equilibrium.
 2. It would lower the morale of the college.
 3. The swipes would have no means of stopping at the right tables. (This was refuted by the point that Stop signs could be stationed at one corner of each table.)
 4. The dining-room floor would need repairing too often.
 5. ETC.
- The judges, Alma Gilbert, Alice Gobel, and Gertrude Burch, gave the decision to the affirmatives because of their ability to talk "fastly and steadily."

A FRANK APPRECIATION

(Continued from page two)
Scribners says, "College newspapers give the impression of lack of inspiration," and further, "College papers show too many evidences of the dead hand of the faculty." "This is all too true, and it is regrettable that college journalists have awaited for an outsider to appraise them so frankly.

Looking through the exchanges every week is a loathsome task, as every editor knows. To give them a rather careful perusal requires at least two or three hours. It is during this weary procedure each week that the writer becomes sensitive to the imperfections of college journalism. Stripped of its local appeal, the ordinary issue of a college paper becomes a meaningless splatter of ink.

This seems strange. It is not true of humorous publications. Let a student at Bowdin pick up a copy of Frivol, for instance, and he will snort quite as much as an Iowa student, if it happens to be the funny issue. And why? Because the comics make use of material that has a universal appeal to college students the country over. Obviously, the newspapers are overlooking something. They are missing that wealth of material which is to be found in every college and which therefore, is more essentially collegiate in interest than some insignificant announcement or some meeting, or some speaker, or some committee session, or what not.

The first suggestion I would make to the college newspaper is of rather general character. And that is to play up those things that portray the real essence of college life, and if space is limited, cut down the little unimportant notices that give so many college papers the appearance of a small town weekly.

More specifically speaking, the editorial page is the saddest and the most melancholy feature of the student newspaper. Hence it stands most apparently in need of, let us say, some new and brightening color. If it were half as well got out as the average college sport page these words would be unnecessary. First, the editor must debunk his page, that is, rid it of the present excessive amount of rah-rah, blah-blah stuff that now clogs its stately columns.

The booster complex is an unfortunate yet characteristic feature of the student editor. Just a little laboratory experiment, let any editor consult the Reader's Guide of Periodic Literature and turn to the pages with articles on colleges. He will be astounded to find such a large number devoted to critical comments on our institutions of higher learning. With the world outside having so much to say about the weakness of our colleges, it is now almost unthinkable that student newspapers themselves should scarcely dare to criticize. And yet it is only in a few outstanding papers that one will find a consistent, constructive, critical attitude.

Further to enliven the editorial page, the local paper has attempted a few innovations. A department called Collegia appears every two or three weeks containing clippings from other publications illustrating the more ludicrous phases of college life. It is similar to the Americana column in the American Mercury, but confines itself strictly to the college sphere. Such a department is run under the theory that it develops a feeling of "college consciousness," that is to say, an awareness of what is going on in the college world, whether good or bad.

Finally it should be remarked that a student newspaper should bend every effort to rid itself of faculty domination. The quality of any college newspaper is in inverse ratio to the amount of faculty meddling. The faculty yoke is not easily cast off, or kept off, and every editor realizes that. Professors, deans and presidents regard their own judgment infallible. Whenever it comes to a show down, the student editor usually is made to realize the limitations of his position. This is unfortunate, of course, and is the best alibi college journalists have to offer for the shortcomings of their papers. Nevertheless, the fight for freedom of the college press must be maintained if college journalism is ever to improve.

The times move on and we must advance with them. And if the college newspapers do not soon begin to manifest a more progressive attitude, the time may come when certain enterprising groups of students will organize to publish something akin to the tabloids and will thereby elbow the present publications out of existence. From "The Epsilog," organ of Pi Delta Epsilon, Honorary Journalism Fraternity. — Reprinted from the Northern Review.

CAMPUSOLOGY

The most popular girl and fellow on the campus for the last week have been Laura Hurst and Dale Dawson.

Now, girls, we don't mind your chatting in exams, but the next time, please talk low so that the rest of us can concentrate.

German marks and Alma grades seem to be on a par value.

Charley Murray has a new major Physics II.

The Big Parade made its first appearance in Alma last week Friday night at Wright Hall after eleven o'clock.

And didn't those griddle cakes smell just DELICIOUS!

Our Ear to the Ground department reports that there are three fellows who are due to be razed plenty in the Co-ed edition of the ALMANIAN. Here's looking at you folks and it isn't water either.

Don't be discouraged or downhearted, folks, in another two months Professor West will give his Spring chapel talk.

We wonder what the Borton-Bishop team got in honor points. There are some cases on the campus (we regret to say) where the honor points have lost their honor.

The results of exam week:—

1. Ten people got better grades than they expected.
2. 271 people got lower grades than they expected.
3. 17 badly injured by unmanageable horses.
4. 13 professors limp more or less.

Gil Scheib turned cake-eater. That only goes to show what a man will do for love.

One of the things we old students miss most is the yearly trip we used to get to "deah old Oxford."

For the first time in history—a member of the President's family knocked down twenty-seven honor points.

Drevdahl's wide experience ought to have told him that you never can tell what a woman will do.

Well, no more work until the first of June now.

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