

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Black-bordered Report

If there is anything at all encouraging about the black-bordered pledge class grade reports, it must be the improvement made by the fraternity pledges. In only four years, at their current rate of improvement, they'll catch up with their somewhat more static sisters.

A total of slightly over 38 per cent, 155 out of 407, of the fraternity pledges didn't make a 2 point fall term. This is down from over 43 per cent in 1954 and nearly 48 per cent in 1953.

Even after four years of pouring over the grades, such a percentage still shocks us. The average for the fraternity pledge classes was 2.153, the average for the freshman men's dorms, 2.13. Neither are particularly respectable averages.

Just a glance at the sorority pledges grades makes them appear better than their fraternity counterparts. The grades themselves are, but the grades are below those of last year and only slightly above those for 1953. Out of the 285 sorority pledges, 55 did not make a 2 point, for an average of 19.3 percent, as compared to 18.3 percent last year.

Last year's top sorority pledge grades were a 3.22 and a 2.89—pretty respectable averages. This year the top was 2.841, the low a 2.013. The women did not do as well as usual.

The most shocking thing was the number of fraternity pledge class below a 2 point. The average for three whole pledge class was below a 2 point. A few individual 0.00's did nothing to help them.

A number of the fraternities have been operating study tables throughout the term. This, with the better study facilities in the new dormitory, may have helped the men improve their grades. Obviously, however, there is still room for considerable improvement.

Possibly the place to start is with the Inter-fraternity council and the fraternities themselves. Sorority grades are usually higher than the fraternities. Panhellenic does not permit women with less than a 4 stanine to rush. IFC might consider a similar limitation!

The fraternities are not able to maintain strict control over their freshmen. Compared to the women, they are relatively free from University-set restrictions. The answer would seem to be more careful membership selection, with consideration given to the student's potential.

Some guidance on the part of the fratern-

nity must follow this if the fraternities are to continue to exist. Those 155 men, and 55 women, will not be moving into their houses next fall if they don't do better in their scholastic endeavors winter and spring terms. If they don't, the loss will be the fraternities, as well as the University's. We look to the fraternities for action.—(S.R.)

Some New Films

Ever attend a Student Union movie? If you haven't, you may have been missing some worthwhile entertainment.

All rabid movie-goers should take careful note of the list of Sunday movies that the SU movie committee provides each term. Last term there were several fine films on the slate. The schedule for winter term looks even better.

From this corner it looks as though the top two movies this term will be shown on Jan. 15 and 22. The first, "With a Song in My Heart," is the film story of songstress Jane Froman. The second, with James Stewart and June Allyson as the stars, is "The Glenn Miller Story."

Another which will probably attract a large audience will be "Snows of Kilimanjaro," Jan. 29.

The first movie of the term will be "Bird of Paradise," Jan. 8. The others, in addition to the three mentioned above, are "Johnny Belinda," "Genevieve," "So Big," and "Titanic."

What we like most about the presentations of the movie committee this year is that they are halfway recent hits. Most of the pictures this term are not more than a couple of years old.—(B.R.)

Footnotes

The Most Deserted Place of the First Week of the Term—the library—hasn't been living up to its reputation. Guess too many people are trying to atone for their fall term follies.

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Only 48 weeks later the duck tracks up Hello Walk have almost disappeared. Just goes to prove how permanent washable paint is.

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One enterprising student has come up with a new way to beat the registration lines at Emerald hall. He mailed his check and cards to the business office.

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Suggested research project: a chemical analysis of what passes for coffee at the Student Union.

Packing Again



THE LOOKING GLASS

Military Bureaucracy Eclipses Air Power Rise

By Bob Davis
Emerald Columnist

"The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell" is the simply and competently told biography of Brigadier General William Mitchell of the Army Air Service, as the Air Force was called in the first decade of the twentieth century.

Mitchell was a man dedicated to the development of the military aircraft and the increased responsibility it should have in future wars. In 1921 he staged a demonstration of airplane potential when a group of his rickety bi-planes droned and sputtered over an "unsinkable" captured German warship. Each dropped its destructive load until the ship became painfully sinkable to the military and civilian dignitaries that were out to watch the demonstration.

A new dawn in military history was about to break, but the rising sun of air power was soon to be eclipsed by the tradition and bureaucracy of the military establishment. Mitchell was shunted into the wide open nothingness of Texas where the old school militarists hoped he would soon forget all about the troublesome new airplane. Mitchell was not to be quieted,

however. After several men had been killed in a naval airplane crash, Billy contacted the press and in violent terms stated that the recent crashes were the result of incompetency, negligence, and almost treasonable administration of the national defense by the War and Navy departments.

An outburst like that in the military naturally called for court-martial proceedings. He used his testimony to the fullest in order to get the plans of his his force vision out before those whose help he needed. He described quite accurately the role of the air force as it functions today. He predicted the attack on Pearl Harbor with almost mystical preciseness.

Billy was suspended from the service for five years and so resigned. He became a martyr to the air force cause and his name drew a sort of evangelical spirit into the later air power advocates.

Gary Cooper is the Hollywood facsimile of General Billy and does a capable job although Cooper's veranda vitality in speech and mannerisms does not always convey the zest and exuberance of the fire-ball General that helped fill the skies with American aircraft.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

French People Protest Against Status Quo; Join Extremists

By J. M. Roberts
Of the Associated Press

The idea of Premier Faure that elections at this time would give France a more stable government, and the refusal of the last National Assembly to give him the election reforms he thought would help, have produced a shocking political dilemma.

The French people have registered their protest against things as they are by adding to the strength of groups — the Communists and the anti-taxers — whose chief objectives are the very opposite of stabilization.

Since the extremists always tend toward union, there is even the possibility of a so-called popular front government, of the type formed in various Eastern European countries after the war which ultimately led to complete Communist control.

Observers thought it more like-

ly that the moderate leftists of former Premier Mendes-France and kindred groups might be able to form a government, but there was little hope of any government which would be able to move confidently toward settlement of the many issues which beset France.

The best-looking hope, but one which showed no immediate signs of attainment, was that Mendes-France and Faure would compromise enough of their differences so that some semblance of down-the-middle government could be resumed.

Even this, however, would not give France any more stable government than those which have been repeatedly voted out of office since the war.

The Poujadist anti-tax movement, although it merely expressed and consolidated an attitude which has long been recognized as one of France's most dis-

ruptive, acquired surprising strength at the polls.

Its success adds to the tendency of the country to duck the facts of cold war and give up in the face of its rising costs, just as the country gave up in the face of Communism in Indochina. It is obvious that, even while their representatives were agreeing to the recent forming of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, many Frenchmen were turning away from it.

The most startling and disturbing thing in American eyes will be the gains of the Communist Party, which had been generally considered to be losing ground in the face of Russian mistakes and an increasing general prosperity.

The vote reveals a strong tendency for the people to turn to the Communists when they wish to protest without being able to center on concrete policies of reform.



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