

Ever Been Homesick?

Freshman Nostalgia for Old Home Town No Joke to Colleges; Reasons, Cures Cited

NEW YORK (NEA) — On countless American campuses this fall, where brand-new freshmen are trying to adjust themselves to college life's homesickness.

Freshman nostalgia is no joke to college authorities. The problem is greatest among students who never have been away from home before — and among boys from farms and villages confronted for the first time with life in a big city college.

For the freshman, the shock is probably toughest when West meets East — when a boy from Kansas or California runs up against what Assistant Dean Donald B. Miller calls "the cold, impersonal approach of the Easterners."

Homesickness Study

Miller has been working on the homesickness problem as part of his duties on the staff of Columbia University's School of Engineering. Like many other colleges, Columbia attacks the malady before it becomes serious through a seven-man team of counselors who take over the freshmen the minute they put their bags down on the campus.

In colleges with such a program, there is little time for a new student to yearn for home. Without it, says Edward J. Malloy Jr., who directs the service at Columbia, countless freshmen would be "lost boys."

Counselors, all young men who may be either graduate students or staff members, are selected for their ability to organize social life for the neophytes. They live in the dormitories, and in the course of the first few weeks make it their business to know every freshman student in their province.

Frequent Cause

Homesickness is often the result of not being able to make friends easily, the counselors discovered.

"It's the boy who has to walk alone, behind the crowd, that we worry about," Counselor George Thompson explains, "and we make special efforts to see that he meets and makes friends with others. Sometimes we introduce students from the same city or state, and sometimes we try to bring together fellows who plan to enter the same general field of study."

Today's college counselors are advisors rather than disciplinarians. At Columbia, for instance, a such standard college-boy stunts as soaping door handles, pie-bedding and water-tossing. It's only when the water bags start sloshing on the street sides of dormitories that the counselors ring down the curtain. "We don't worry about run-of-the-mill pranks," Thompson and Miller agree. "But we do worry when there is no horseplay at all."

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FIRST LETTER HOME is tackled by Columbia freshman Mario Muchnik, whose yearning for home covers a lot more mileage than most new students. He comes from Buenos Aires.

Move to Set Population Limits for Legislators

PORTLAND, Oct. 11 (AP)—Oregon voters will be asked next year to put both state legislative houses on a straight population quota.

This would mean the end of the system in which lightly populated districts now gain representation. Senators and representatives would be elected entirely according to population.

A committee of young republicans and young democrats, AFL and CIO representatives — now drafting an initiative measure on representation — decided to do away with geographical representation.

Constitution

The state constitution stipulates that the population should be the guiding rule.

There is one concession, though, to the upstaters, who argue for some geographical representation.

The measure, expected to go before the voters next year, has not been drafted. Tentatively, though, it would give Multnomah county (Portland), the state's most populous, 20 representatives and 10 senators instead of the 13 representatives and 6 senators it now has.

Committee members said Multnomah could be expected to lose some of these later as other sections of the state grow.

There may be opposition measures. Some upstate legislators are arguing that each county should have a senator, regardless of population. This is the rule that applies for the U. S. senate.

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Lumbermen Want Pest Fight Funds

SEATTLE, Oct. 11 (AP)—A blast of criticism was loosed last night at the idea of spending millions of dollars for forest fire protection and "only a few hundred thousands on pest control."

Clyde S. Martin of Tacoma, president of the Society of American Foresters and chief forester for the Weyerhaeuser Timber company, said timber losses in the three coastal states were five times greater from fire.

One pest alone—the spruce budworm—is destroying 2,250,000 acres of forests in Oregon and Washington, he said.

Other destructive bugs are the Tussock moth, Englemann spruce beetle and hemlock looper.

Martin, here for the society's convention which opened today, said 500,000 acres of Oregon forest must be treated next year if the spruce budworm is to be controlled.

Saved Another, Lost Own Life

PORTLAND, Oct. 11 (AP)—A railroad yard worker was run down and killed by a bumped coach yesterday after pushing a co-worker to safety.

The victim was Joseph Bratton, 48, Portland. Shoved to safety was David Markham, Portland.

Investigators said a train from Seattle was pulling into the Union station on track six, hit a partially opened switch and suddenly shunted onto track five, bumping the private car of a Southern Pacific official. The car rolled, killing Bratton who had been standing on the track.

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GIANT SQUASH — Christy Morris, 2, looks over a 4 1/2-foot banana squash weighing 82 pounds, exhibited by R. J. Richards at the Los Angeles county fair.

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