The Student Council

by JOSEPH SCANNELL

The present Student Council at Delaware College is composed of twenty-one members—three men from each of the five fraternities and two non-fraternity men from each of the three upper classes. Its officers are elected by the body.

The Council's scope of authority is rather indefinite, but for the most part it distributes funds and helps to supervise undergraduate activities. There can be no doubt but that its powers are broad enough to require an intelligent and interested membership if they are to be retained.

It has been obvious for a long time that the Council is much too large for efficient operation, and the recent addition of one more non-fraternity man from each of the classes represented, while making the representation slightly more proportionate than was previously the case, made it even larger. The very size of the Council has tended to lower the calibre of its membership.

A plan for a smaller, more representative Council has been long overdue, and should be an aim of the next Council. It is readily evident that a Council which annually appropriates up to $3,700 of student funds must represent the best ability of all the students.

But before anything can be done to help the student body retain and ultimately increase the extent of its self-government, it must unburden itself from the generally prevalent apathy toward student government and activities in which it now seems enveloped. Student government, to be successful, implies certain obligations as well as privileges. Chief among the former is for every student to maintain an active, constructive interest in his governing body.

Lest too black a picture be painted, let it be said that the present Council has accomplished much despite the impediments to its progress.

Council's accomplishments

First big step forward was a further approach toward the complete abolishment of rat rules and hazing. Wearing white socks, carrying matches, and attending the daily wall meetings were the latest bits of pre-war rah-rah done away with. Rat Court under the supervision of the Council was more like a sane Court and less like a medieval trial by ordeal. As a result of the Council's liberal stand, the Freshman Banquet passed with a minimum of rowdism. To the mournful tune of "things ain't what they used to be," it took place without the kidnapping of freshmen, without faculty discipline, without anyone's being sent to the hospital by injuries, and without property damage.

The Intra-mural program, which is finishing up a highly successful first year, was financed by the Council when the University refused to support it. This much needed plan will be taken over next year by the College as a permanent part of the athletic program.

Appropriation increase secured

An indication of the accomplishments which can be made by an intelligent Council is the success of the present Council in securing an increased appropriation for the athletic department by studying its needs and submitting to the Business Administrator a plan which was largely carried out. This method of sensible presentation of facts to the proper authority succeeded where years of general shouting and radical claims failed.

The Convention of the International Relations Club was financed by the Council in cooperation with the Women College Student Council. It proved to be a great boon to the University, bringing representatives to our campus from fifty colleges.

With the help of the Military Department, we have maintained a well drilled band for pep fests and athletic contests.

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The Student Council (Continued)

The Social Year

The year has been an outstanding success as far as the Council's social functions are concerned. Opening with a bang with the Welcome Dance, starring the ex-Delawarean Tanner boys' Kentuckians, the Council took over the control of the Junior Prom and brought Clyde McCoy to play for the best affair Delaware has had in years. Yet to come at the time this article is being written are the Spring Frolic and the Farewell Hop. From all indications, these will be the big successes they have been in the past.

Such have been the accomplishments of the 1936-7 Student Council. The next logical question is "How much has it cost?" In answer, we submit an approximate, unofficial statement of the Council's transactions:

**INCOME**

- Balance from 1935-6 Council $1,300
- Student Council Fees (1st term) $1,500
- Student Council Fees (2nd term) $1,350
- Ads to be collected (on Review) $1,000

**EXPENDITURES**

- Review $950
- Blue Hen $2,000
- Humanist $200
- Debate Team $50
- Athenaeum Society $100
- Intra-Murals $200
- Miscellaneous $35

**Balance for 1937-8 Council** $1,625

1936-37 Members

- Joseph Scannell
- R. Perry Vandegrift
- Wilmer Benson
- James Sutton
- Joseph Spiller
- John Hodgson
- Collins J. Seitz
- Armell Long
- Sigmund M. Lipstein
- Charles C. Brown
- Hial Pepper
- Clark Lattin
- William Wells
- John Lafferty
- Edward J. Wilson
- John Healy
- Seymour Blechman
- John Rogers
- John Connor
- George Baker

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Publications

NUMBER one among the non-athletic activities of practically all American Colleges and Universities is—and should be—publications. Delaware is no exception. Surely, more money and time are spent in their preparation than on that of any other activity. And more benefit is derived from them certainly by the staff members and perhaps by the readers.

Delaware College has three major publications, the Review, Blue Hen, and Humanist. According to the new general publications constitution adopted this year, “the editorial policy of the publications shall be determined by the Editors-in-chief, who shall at all times have available the advice of the Faculty Committee on Student Publications.”

No censorship

Delaware College publications have no censorship. And they will continue not to have any, to quote an editorial from the Spring, 1936, Humanist, provided “that the editors of these publications will always be aware of their responsibility to cooperate with the faculty and administration; that they will strive to augment the prestige of the University of Delaware, and that they will never abuse their freedom of the press.”

This does not mean that the editors must cower to the administration, that they must swallow their principles to keep the good will of the faculty. The continuation of a free press at Delaware College depends on the good judgment of the student editors.

Publications on upgrade

Despite some indications to the contrary, publications have been improving during the past few years, and a much greater improvement is to be expected during the next few years. Because of the numerous shake-ups on the Review staff, its progress has been impeded. However, it now appears to be recovering from its unrest. The Humanist was only revived within the past two years, and it definitely improves with each issue. As for the Blue Hen, it is probably as good as the average college year book.

What makes any merit in our publications particularly significant is the fact that literary talent at Delaware is either sparse or reticent. The majority of students who participate in the activity are on the staffs of at least two of the publications. Until last year, literary ability on the campus seemed to be getting scarcer each year. Therefore, any improvement in the publications has been the result of hard work by the editors. Some relief to this situation seems to have come with the present Sophomore and Freshman classes, either one of which has more literary ability—at least has evidenced more—than the two upper classes combined. We can but hope that this is something more than a temporary improvement.

Thus my prophecy of an increased improvement in all our publications within the next few years. We have the money, the freedom of the press, and the talent. All we need is some enthusiasm and willingness to take advantage of our assets.

One general criticism to all three publications is that they limit themselves strictly to Delaware College. All of them might profit greatly through cooperation, at least, with Women’s College. The combined resources—literary, administrative, and financial—of the two colleges would suffice to produce publications vastly superior to those now put out by the separate colleges.

Chief objection to this plan on the part of the Women’s College authorities seems to be that the Women’s College students would not be able to do their share of the work and would lose the valuable experience they get now from publishing their own Pambo and Blue and Gold. While there may be some truth in this idea of the greater aggressiveness of the men students over that of the women, this argument loses sight of the significance of producing better publications and is probably not valid.

The three articles following, written by two editors, and a former editor, describe more particularly than this general sketch the development of the publications during the past two years and suggestions for their future development.

R. C. B.
"Review"
by JOSEPH H. PERKINS

PUBLISHED each week by the students of Delaware College, The Review is the prime centralizing factor on the campus of student thought and opinion. Through the medium of its news columns, both important and trivial matters of current interest are brought before the student body to enable them mutually to have knowledge concerning the activities in which each student participates either directly, or as a member of the student body at large.

Flaws in the many other student managed affairs, and also in the policies and practices of the administration, are exposed and reforms are suggested in The Review's editorial department. The chief purposes of the publication then, are, first, to give accurate accounts of current events pertaining to Delaware College, and, second, to improve the standards of the institution by means of editorial exposition and moulding of student and faculty opinion.

Originally a literary magazine of a nature somewhat similar to the present Humanist magazine, The Review is now exclusively a journalistic product, offering all students an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the newswriting art. Members of the staff are selected not on a political or fraternity basis, but with fair comparative evaluation of ability and interest. The Editor-in-chief and the business manager are nominated by their respective predecessors and voted upon by an electoral committee comprising both student and faculty representatives. After being placed in office each executive bears full responsibility for the management of his phase of the newspaper, held within limits by a general, liberal constitution.

Success dependent on Editors

The foregoing is, briefly, a picture of the purposes and organization of The Review. How nearly the publication approaches complete achievement of its purposes, how closely it follows its high standards of organization, and how far it is removed from faculty censorship is a complex question which can only be answered by referring to the administrations of individual editors. Each editor determines his own policies; some choose theirs wisely, others less wisely. Editors vary in the power of expressing their thoughts in words, in courage and resourcefulness, in open-mindedness, in the ability to select and manage subordinates, and in the capacity to recognize news and deal with it according
to its relative importance. Some editors allow members of the faculty to exercise an arbitrary, dogmatic, and unconstitutional power of censorship. For example Thomas Cooch, who became editor when the present writer resigned last fall, was then coerced into removing gossip columns, despite the fact that he knew the general charges of indecency were not valid.

It is rarely however, that the faculty meddles with this purely student activity, and even more rarely does an editor alter his policies to acquiesce to false accusations and groundless criticism. The Review editors generally try to cooperate on a friendly basis with the faculty; each group usually welcomes just criticism and constructive suggestions.

**Handloff had successful regime**

The administration of Alvin Handloff in 1935-36 was unusually successful, primarily because Handloff possessed high ability in all phases of his duties; his news columns were readable as well as accurate, and his editorials have, in the opinion of the present writer, never been surpassed in the history of The Review in the qualities of subject choice, diplomatic frankness, and lucidity of style. The most memorable and effective of his editorials excoriated the faculty for not preventing students from cheating during examinations. The subsequent faculty and student uproar failed to part Handloff from his justified convictions.

The policies of the present writer, who took office in March, 1936, were primarily intended to stimulate student interest in all divisions of college activity, for at that time that general constricive enthusiasm called "school spirit" was in a lethargic condition. By using mild sensationalism without transgressing accuracy in news articles, and by moderate use of hyperbole in his editorials, he endeavored, perhaps with questionable success, to arouse his readers into a more active college life. His successor, Thomas Cooch, '38, adopted a more conservative, colorless manner, but continued to print most of the news in a clear, if somewhat anemic, style. His editorials at times were apropos and forceful, but no permanent policies in that department were apparent.

**New editor appointed**

At the moment of this writing, a new editor has just taken office. He is George Cooke, '38, whose interest in current events, education problems, and governmental affairs, displayed in his participation in debating, and high scholarship provides basis for a prediction of a laudable term at the editorial desk. Faced as he is with the problem of reorganizing the reportorial staff, and having had no extensive training before taking office, Cooke has much to do and much to learn before he can be expected to produce the first class newspaper that he may be expected eventually to give the students.
The Blue Hen

Robert C. Barab, Editor-in-Chief

With painfully few exceptions, college yearbooks throughout the country over have been the monotonous same for years and years. Yet, so much of a “cherished tradition” have they become that their worthwhileness is rarely questioned. Realizing the precarious basis on which many of them rest, a few editors here and there have made efforts, of varying success, to break away from the “same old thing” and do something a little different.

The purpose of a yearbook, as conventionally stated, is to “recall to the minds of students in future years a few fleeting glances of their happy days at college.” Despite the fact that editors have been saying this in the Forwards of yearbooks for years, the present Blue Hen staff doesn’t consider it ample justification for the time and money required to produce even a mediocre yearbook. Consequently, we have striven to plan and execute this book so as to give it something more than this vague, sentimental value.

As seen of late by progressive editors, a yearbook should provide something to read as well as to look at. It must be carefully made up so as to assure balance in its makeup and content. As broad as possible a view of campus affairs concerning both faculty and students should be presented. The book as a whole must satisfy reasonably high literary and artistic standards.

As the editors of all Delaware College publications soon find out, these ideals are much easier to state than to attain. However, in the face of limitations—particularly of money and talent—we have done our best to approach them.

First of all, we have tried to cut out what is meaningless; for example, the traditional writeups about the Juniors and Seniors to the effect that so and so is a fine fellow and will no doubt make his way in the world—all of them saying practically the same nothing, with perhaps some slight variation in wording. To say anything different would in many cases result either in hurt feelings or in untruths.

In assembling writeups of activities, we have tried, in all those we consider significant, to present the opinions of people closely connected with them. Constructive criticisms are offered in some of the writeups.

Why not annual?

Chief fault in the setup of the Blue Hen is the fact that it is a biennial rather than an annual publication. The rank unfairness of this circumstance to half the school is evident. People want yearbooks when they graduate, not while they’re Juniors. The members of the Senior Class are featured in each book, since they
Biennial naturally hold the major campus offices. Most activity leaders are—and should be—Seniors. Thus, those in evenly numbered classes really have no yearbooks!

We feel therefore that the Blue Hen should be combined with the likewise biennial Blue and Gold of the Women's College and that the combined publication should be published each year.

Objections overruled!

The only objection to this proposal seems to be that the Women's College students would have no say in the production of the book; that they would lose the valuable administrative experience they now get by putting out their own biennial. To this, we counter that the responsibility might be practically divided between a men's and women's editor, each to be responsible for his or her own college. Or, the editor-in-chief might alternate between the two colleges from year to year. And since there would be twice as many issues for each college, the number of students who would have their "filing" at publishing would increase correspondingly. What is more, the claim that Women's College staff members would be too backward to take their share of responsibility and work is certainly open to question.

The advantages that would accrue from this plan make it seem strange that it wasn't put into effect years ago. The available interesting material—a big problem for both books at present—would be greatly increased. Combining the talent of the two Colleges would be another huge asset. And the additional cost of the extra books would be covered by the greater advertising appeal of the new book plus the decreased cost per book of the various processes involved because of larger production.

From every angle, this is a plan which should be immediately effected. When it is, the University may expect a real yearbook.

R. C. B.
THE recent history of literary expression at the University of Delaware, and of its organ, the 
*Humanist*, has not been a happy one. The year 1932 saw its birth with the appearance of two creditable 
issues of an elevated tone. Since the cost of publication was covered by ads and popular subscriptions, the 
enterprise had to be abandoned for financial reasons. In 1935, by action of the Student Council, the Activities 
Fee was charged on the term bill, automatically making every man a member of the Student Association. This 
made the revival of the *Humanist* a financial possibility. J. Edward Davidson was accordingly appointed Editor. 
Davidson knew relatively little about editing a magazine, and he was unfortunate in that there was no 
suitable model for him to follow, nor was there anyone to give him the dubious benefit of previous experience. 
His editorial policy, therefore, was somewhat nebulous, as was his idea of just exactly what kind of 
a magazine the *Humanist* was.

It seems to me, at this stage, having put out one issue and preparing for another, that these problems, which 
must be solved before the magazine can be firmly established as an institution for which there is a real 
need on the campus, are still hanging fire. That a solution must be found is taken for granted. Just how 
or what is to be done is matter for discussion.

In a magazine of this type, where there is no definite aim, it is the men who make it. Davidson was smart 
enough to realize his limitations, and to surround himself with men who could do the necessary jobs. He 
was smart enough to ask for opinions, and smart enough to make up his own mind afterwards. For this 
he must be given credit. His two issues were no better than the material which he had available. It was 
spotty.

The present editor, who, curiously enough, happens to be the author of this article, would like to say that 
he does the best he can. That is pure wurtz, and sliced thin. He suffers occasionally from that chronic malady 
peculiar and prevalent in the University of Delaware: apathy and lethargy.

**Proposal of monthly magazine**

It should be the function of the *Humanist* to be, first and foremost, the medium of expression for the under-
graduate body, whether it be in the field of art, literature, or opinion. There are a surprising large number 
of men on the campus who would like to say something. Many of them really have something to say. 
There is at present no occasion or place for such expression, unless it be the fraternity bull-session. The 
majority of Delaware men are non-fraternity. It was with this thought in mind that a small group tried to 
start a monthly supplement to the *Humanist*, last December, mimeographed at first, if need be, believing 
that in time, in a very short time, it would achieve the printed page, with advertisements and all the trimming. 
At the same time, Mr. Lawrence Willson, popular English instructor, was invited by the Editor to review 
the *Humanist* for the *Review*. He did. He certainly did. He attacked particularly my editorial, in which I pre-
Magazine presented the case for the monthly. His contention was that what we need is better stories, not more of them. He is right, but at the same time, the way to get them is through a monthly.

The present procedure is to wait until a month before publication, suddenly collect a batch of material, and publish it. The result is called the Humanist. The contributors write their stuff, the editor looks it over, sometimes asks for corrections, sometimes get them, and that's that. Now, why can't that happen every month?

It seems to me that many fellows who have what it takes, in a manner of speaking, are awed by the Humanist, and will not contribute because it is the Literary Publication of Delaware College. That's silly, because at the same time, they don't hold it in any great respect. A less pretentious and more intimate publication, appearing more often, would attract these gentlemen, and perhaps arouse some intellectual spirit.

Not only should a college magazine offer a medium of expression for its student body, but it should mirror, as closely as possible, the everyday life of its contemporaries, and the attitude of its generation toward important institutions and problems. In this lies another fault of the Humanist: its pussyfooting attitude toward controversial questions, and I mean real controversial questions.

In order to fulfill its functions efficiently and competently, the Humanist should be a co-ed affair. But the stand of the powers that be on this matter is only too well known. It is proper, however, to mention in passing what an improvement on each other would be the Humanist and Pambo, the Woman's College magazine, if only as a matter of economy.

As it stands now, the Humanist has plenty of room for improvement. There could be more stories, and more articles of general interest. There could also be more humor, since a good part of the college man's day is spent either in laughing at something or someone, or vice versa. The latter I believe is available, there having evolved this term a group of wits which gives promise of doing things.

No spring issue is being published because of financial troubles in the Student Council. In the future, the Humanist must be recognized as one of the standing obligations of the Council and should appear without fail.
Two Years

The development of new dramatic personalities because of a greater interest on the part of the student body; an increased degree of experimentation by the production staffs with a subsequent improvement of technical skill; better choice of plays. These, I feel, have been the outstanding achievements of dramatic activities during the past two years at Delaware. And these will constitute the subject matter of this article rather than synopses and criticisms of the plays which have been given. Indeed, criticisms of ample number and intelligence have appeared in contemporary publications to cover that field.

Stars that glitter

Glancing back over the past few years brings to the mind of anyone who has been connected with dramatics several outstanding personalities. Bill Lawrence, Irvin Malcolm, T. Willey Keithley, Curtis Ports, Bette McKelvey, Mary Louise Wolfenden, and Vera McCall have all of them left their indelible stamp in the annals of Delaware's dramatics. More recently, the seemingly unfillable gaps left by the departure of these veterans have been capably filled by a long list of hopefuls. To mention a few, we have Libby MacFarland, Kay Castle, Kay Spencer, Dotty Couahan, Doris Hanna, Jeanne Davis (freshman), T. Blair Ely, Harry Watson, William Noonan, and—in a class apart—Delaware's own Boland and Ruggles, Jeanne Davis (junior) and Tom Warren. These are the people who have made dramatics what it is today and who will carry it ahead tomorrow.

Chesser, technician par excellence

On the technical end, one figure stands head and shoulders above everyone else, that of Gordon Chesser. With almost unlimited originality and awareness of what his audience wanted in the way of sets Chesser is probably the only stage manager whose sets drew spontaneous applause from the audiences,* and this

*This statement is no longer true. Shortly after it was written, the set for "The Roof" also won spontaneous applause. It was constructed by the author and his co-manager, Thomas Warren.
they did on several occasions. Of course, his accomplishments in set designing would have been impossible without the capable assistance of Betty Armstrong, Betty Jean Hammond, Thomas Warren, Jack Alden, Jack Stewart, Alison Manns, Gilbert Carney, and many others.

Receiving very little credit for their essential work are the many people on the business, publicity, costing, make-up, and property staffs. Without them, there could be no plays.

These, then, are a few of the people who have been bitten by the "Drama bug." It gets you—in more ways than one! It's hard work—this business of making productions consistently worthwhile. And yet, because of some undefinable appeal dramatics has, those who get into it almost never drop out. Knowing exactly how much of a sacrifice of time and effort they are in for, they come back for more time after time.

Experimentation a by-word

The by word among the production staffs has been "experimentation," partly from choice and partly from necessity. Production staffs strive, most of them quite successfully, to keep out of a scenic rut by inventing new tricks of design. Then too, though the Mitchell Hall stage is excellent accoustically and is in general well equipped, there is a lack of stage space which is a constant challenge to the set designers and constructors.

As mentioned previously, the foremost (and most radical) designer of the present era has been Gordon Chesser. Through the development of a capable staff of assistants, the possession of a knowledge of his audiences' desires, and a clever technical mind, Chesser was able to design and execute such realistic sets as those used in "Hell Bent For Heaven," and "Squaring the Circle," such deviations from the ordinary as the modernistic set for "Dark Tower" and "The Green Cockatoo," and ultimately, that most trying and difficult of stagings, "Peer Gynt."
Recently, under the new co-manager plan, the latest innovations have been instituted, some of which admittedly are still in the experimental stages. Among them are the pivoting, double-faced wall, dubbed “The Whirl-about Wall” by Doctor Kase (and by the more cynical group, “Warren and Warburton’s Folly”), and the Linnebach Lantern, both of which were first used in “The Roof.” However, if I may venture a prediction, the development of the Linnebach Lantern as a means for uncommon scenic effects and the facilitation of scenic design is unlimited.

Three Major Drama Groups

It is needless to discuss to any great extent the plays produced at the University by the three major groups, namely, the “Puppets Club” of Women’s College, the “Footlights Club” of Delaware College, both directed by students and the “E 52 Players,” which combines the resources of the two previously-named organizations under the direction of Prof. C. R. Kase, the Director of dramatics at Delaware. As may be conjectured, the last-named group, since it draws upon the entire University for personnel, assumes a leading position in dramatics, with two productions a year. Within the past two years, its vehicles have been “Hell Bent for Heaven, a drama of life among the Southern mountaineers, “Peer Gynt,” the pseudo-epic of Norwegian folk-lore, “The Roof,” a modern sophisticated drama, and Molière’s “School for Husbands,” as musically adapted by Lawrence Langer and Arthur Guiterman.
In direct contrast to the more advanced and mature type of drama presented by the "Players," the Puppets," with "Dark Tower" and "Fly Away Home," and the "Footlighters," with "Squaring the Circle," have catered to the lighter form of drama, never choosing tragedies, and leaning heavily toward sophisticated comedy.

In addition to the regular dramatic organizations, each year brings the Women’s College Competitive Plays Contest and the Delaware College Interfraternity Play Contest. Promising material which otherwise might never come to light is often revealed by these one-act play competitions. These contests are sponsored by the Women’s College Dramatic Board and the Footlights Club respectively.

In conclusion, I feel perfectly safe in predicting for dramatics at Delaware, under the able direction of Prof. Kase, a continued advance in excellence of production and a realization by the student body as well as interested persons in the vicinity that here at the University is a steadily growing youngster whose course is worth following in its advance to a major place on the campus.
LAST year, a handful of Patrick Henries from Delaware College got together and formed a Debating Society, thus breaking up a five year lull in the College’s forensic activities. This group comprised students who wanted to get a little public speaking experience and meet debaters from other universities. They have accomplished their purpose and in addition have spread the name of Delaware College among other colleges.

The Debating Society will always be grateful to the Student Council for the financial support that has permitted them to carry on. The continuation of this financial arrangement will be to the mutual benefit of the College and the orators.

Debating has been somewhat hampered by the dearth of interested debaters at Delaware. There were only five men to argue for the college last year, and six men have handled the schedule this year. In the hope of increasing and improving the supply of talent, a freshman Debate team was organized last fall.

Ambitious scheduling

The society arranged its first year’s schedule with outstanding universities, in the hope of arousing campus interest in verbal combat. Haverford, Drexel, Rutgers, Vermont, and California, all furnished opposition for the Delaware squad last season. The result was a decided increase in appreciation, on the part of the student body and the faculty.

This year brought return matches with Haverford, Rutgers, and Vermont, and the initiation of debating relations with Swarthmore, Washington College, Penn State Coeds, Dickinson, and Villanova. This impressive list was selected to insure the Delaware debaters a series of good, hard fought discussions on important questions.

A new type of speaking experience was made available to some members of the team this year through the courtesy of Radio Station W.D.E.L. The meets with Rutgers and Penn-State Coeds were both broadcast from that station.

Recognizing the fact that subjects should be chosen with an eye to information as well as entertainment, the questions were used that reflected the controversial issues of the day. The debaters swapped vocabulary on such hair pulling issues as curtailment of Supreme Court power, adoption of socialized medicine, U. S. entrance in the next World War, rugged individualism versus regimentation, and Government regulation of hours and wages in Industry.

Introduction of Oregon system

Skeptics have always scorned debating for its cut and dried manner of presentation. The Oregon system of debate, however, has done much to change people’s ideas on the subject at Delaware. This system is similar to court room procedure, in that each constructive speaker is cross-examined by an opponent. This questioning is a source of great entertainment for debaters and audience as a result of the sharp verbal parryings and thrusts which fluctuate from the very serious to the ridiculous.

The results of the two years of renewed debating at Delaware warrants its continued and enlarged existence. It is up to students to keep the standards of debating up by their participation and encouragement. And, from present indications, they will.

C. J. S.
THE Athenaean Society, formed in 1834 as a literary club, holds the distinction of being the oldest organized society at the University of Delaware. In the early years of the college, it existed as a secret competitive club and was the intense and traditional rival of the Delta Phi society. The activities of both organizations were literary and forensic, and it is said that many men learned more of parliamentary procedure, of effective public speaking, and attained greater skill in written expression through activity in these societies than from the formal requirements of their academic studies. Gradually, however, harder work in college and, perhaps, a more practical spirit brought about a fading out of the two societies after years of languishing.

At the time of the Delaware Centenary, in 1934, the Economics Club, upon the suggestion of Dr. George H. Ryden, head of the History Department, decided to broaden the scope of its activities and perpetuate the name of the old Athenaean Society. The reorganized club, while failing to emphasize literary endeavors as did the society of a century ago, lacks none of the old enthusiasm in forensics and forum discussions. It holds regular bi-monthly meetings at which time there are always lively discussions of political and economic questions of national and international importance. Various speakers, either from the college or elsewhere, are invited to speak before the Society and lead the discussion.

I. R. C. Convention

The Athenaean Society gained wide recognition and contributed greatly to the life of the University last December when, in conjunction with the Forum of the Women's College, it acted as host to a convention of the International Relations Clubs of the Middle Atlantic states. Over three hundred delegates coming from seventy colleges attended the conference at Delaware University. Among the prominent speakers addressing its sessions were: Dr. Otto Nathan, former economic adviser to the German government; Dr. Ernest M. Patterson, of the University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Benjamin H. Williams, of the University of Pittsburgh. The general theme of the conference was "Peaceful Change".

The conference was highly successful and Delaware University was strongly commended for the efficient and hospitable manner in which it entertained its collegiate guests. Miss Martha H. Trippe, president of the Forum of the Women's College, served as president of the conference; and Robert P. Vandegrift, president of the Athenaean Society, served as treasurer.

Officers

The officers of the Athenaean Society during 1936-1937 were:

- President: Robert P. Vandegrift
- Vice President: Daniel V. Stoll
- Secretary: C. Oliver Simpler
- Treasurer: J. Robert Jamison, Jr.
- Faculty Adviser: Dr. Joseph S. Gould

Photograph:

Technical

E. E. S.

Electrical Engineers Society
Brem, McKee, Bartlett, Yani, Shorter, Joseph Stewart, Little, Mancini, Muldoones, Sullivan, Pepper, Steelman, Trader Day, Green, Loveless, Geist, Lloyd, Fahey, Leary

A. S. M. E.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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Societies

A. S. C. E.

American Society of Civil Engineers
Cramer, Lynam, Maxwell, Ferguson, Davidson, Brown, Timme, Jackson, Prof. Preston,
Focks, Statton, Wetherall, Donalson, Preston, Cooke, Street, McMahon, Hum

Wolf Chemical Club
Huston, Rambo,
Stearns, Tiffany, Taylor, Kei, Abel, Nichols
Prof. Skinner, Prof. Eastman, Greenwood, Hofficker, Roberts, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Schoensborn

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Phi Kappa Phi

Phi Kappa Phi is an honorary organization designed to promote scholarship on the campus. The society was founded in 1897, and the Delaware chapter was added in 1905.

Phi Kappa Phi men are chosen from those in the Senior class who have the highest averages for the three and a half years. Elections take place the second semester of each year.

The organization seeks to unite the outstanding students on an equal basis with members of the Faculty. It should promote good feeling and high ideals in personal college relationships through frequent meetings.

At the Phi Kappa Phi Dinner held in Old College, April 21, Prof. Joseph S. Gould and Prof. Glenn S. Skinner were admitted to the Society. Prof. Albert S. Eastman, President, was toastmaster at the dinner and presented the insignia.

Students elected to Phi Kappa Phi from Delaware College for the year 1937, were:

Wilmer Benson  William J. Wilson
J. Edward Davidson  William J. KIlloough
Robert C. Barab  Thomas Nichols
B. Franklin Clymer  H. Kent Preston, Jr.
John C. Geist
TAU Beta Pi is an honorary society for engineers devoted to the interests of scholarship, leadership, self-reliance, and achievement in engineering. Its members are selected from the ranks of the most outstanding students in the Department of Engineering. The fraternity however is also open to persons who have achieved success in the field of engineering outside of college.

The original chapter of the fraternity was founded at Lehigh University in 1885 by Edward Higginson Williams, Jr. The Delaware Alpha chapter was installed in 1933 through the efforts of Professor Koerber and H. Frank McWright. It is one of sixty-seven chapters throughout the country, which have a total membership of more than twenty-one thousand engineers and future engineers.

Membership requirements are extremely rigid. One member is chosen at the end of his Sophomore year from the upper eight of his class, and is initiated the following autumn. The remaining upper eight are eligible at the spring initiation. In the Senior year, the percentage eligible becomes greater, members being taken from the upper fourth of the class. Selection is not entirely based on scholarship. Personality, leadership, and participation in college activities are also taken into consideration.
DO I have to take Military? I'm a pacifist. Hell with Military!

"Sure you have to take it. Everybody takes Military."
The buildup starts during Freshman Week. The head of the Delaware outfit gives a talk all about army discipline, army organization, army courtesy—all about the army. Lieutenant-Colonel Donald M. Ashbridge used to be in charge; now it's Major Donald Dutton. He's decked out in a very natty uniform with buttons and badges all over him like a Christmas tree. As soon as you see how classy he looks, you immediately decide you'd rather look like a Christmas tree than be a pacifist after all.

But Major Dutton's uniform fits him. Despite Sergeant Kessinger's valiant efforts in the supply department, your khaki trousers come down slightly below the knees, your shirt fits around your neck like a rope on a man who's just about to be hanged, and your overcoat either drags on the floor or comes to your thighs. But, in all fairness, you must admit the necktie is a perfect fit. So quit complaining!

The Freshman

Even so, the Freshman wears his uniform on more occasions than the department demands probably to prove that "there's something about a soldier." He wears it where there are ladies to be impressed. Later he wears it in chemistry lab., working experiments with HCl and H$_2$SO$_4$; he wears it when wrestling with his roommate; he wears it when it rains.

But after awhile the natural odor of the wool is replaced by one of which his friends emphatically do tell him. He either visits the dry-cleaners or cuts down his dress parading to Thursdays. And he still likes to parade around out of step with the band and maybe with everyone else. In spite of the cynical Sophomores in the front ranks who always pray fervently for rain on Thursdays, he still likes it.

The Sophomore

Pretty soon he himself becomes a cynical Sophomore in the front ranks and always prays fervently for rain on Thursdays. The only time he takes drill seriously is in the spring around the time of Federal Inspection; the Delaware battery must maintain its usual federal rating of "Excellent." The Sophomore finds the army more complicated than last year, what with things like plotting boards to worry him. But maybe he still likes this army stuff, and the money sounds good. He decides to sign up for the advanced course—if the Dean will let him.

The Junior

The Junior becomes a Sergeant. He has a uniform all his own. Now he reverts to his freshman days and wears it whenever he has a chance—except of course on rainy days. Now and then, they give him a squad
to drill. That's fine. He can run the squad all over Frater Field and cuss the Freshmen when they mess up a "squads right." Class work becomes a bit stiffer and "A's" harder to get. He is introduced to firing tables, bracketing, 155's, range finding, and anti-aircraft guns.

In the spring, he takes a physical exam, praying that those "two" nips he had last night won't affect the old ticker.

In June he marches a battery or platoon past the graduating seniors. Then off to Fort Hancock—another physical exam—confusion—learning the army way of living—the Fordham boys—"Joisey" and "de Bronx"—working from 6 to 6—sweat—guns—trips to other forts—lectures—guns—the Villa pensa—guard duty—guns—sweat—changing clothes seven times a day—parades—the crack 62nd—drill—griping about the food—and gaining weight for it all. Then home at last. Three days later: "Darn! I wish I were back."

The Senior—he's sore because he isn't the Major, or at least an Adjutant. New uniforms, this time with boots. "Boy, do I have blisters." And from the lay, "Where's your horse?"

On the drill field, the Senior is drill master and the fount of knowledge. If he's that kind of a guy, he makes it tough for his under-officers. In class he learns military history, material, field engineering, tactics, military law—with a mock court martial. "A's" become rarities.

The reward comes in June when he receives his Second Lieutenant's commission in the Reserves. Two more weeks are spent at camp. This summer, he drills the regulars, listens to innumerable lectures, and commands the firing of 8 inch guns. He returns home and to work (lest there be too severe a depression in progress at the time) and probably gets the rest of his military training from correspondence courses.
[EDITOR'S NOTE: A large number of Delaware College students—generally approximating 50%—commute to and from Newark in one manner or another. Within the past four years at least, no student at Delaware has made his way to his education in a greater variety of ways than the author of this article. At some time or another he has gone between Newark and his home in Arden, Delaware, by driving his own automobile, by riding in another student’s automobile, by taking the bus, by peddling the sixteen miles on a bicycle, by “thumbing it,” and—we are told—on one occasion by walking. For this reason, he was selected to give his views on the “genial art of thumbing it.”]

This furtive slinking through a back door into the exalted hall of literature is not intended to be instructive. It has no concern in initiating anyone into the mysterious way of successful commuting. I have reason to hope that I shall herewith be successful in preventing anyone from ever taking commuting seriously.

“Soliciting rides,” to employ the idiom of the Dean’s bulletin board, is the oldest known means of commuting. In an account by that eminent Greek historian, Xenophon, we have one of the first recorded “hops” in history. “And they marched from thence eight days march along the River Euphrates toward Cunaxa. And on the fourth day Cyrus, standing in his chariot, saw an old man standing beside the road. And Cyrus, seeing the old man making gestures, spoke to him thus: ‘Old man, what do you want?’ And the old man replied, ‘I wish to make a journey to Cunaxa, where King Darius has his army.’ Then Cyrus ordered the old man to stand beside him in the chariot, and from that place they resumed the journey.”

Today, thumbing it has become a much more complicated matter than the old man found it to be back in 500 B.C.

The Thumbers' bames

Let me mention a few of the banes to a thumber’s existence which have helped complicate it. The worst, I think, is the type who, when you thumb him, oscillates his own digit in derision from the safety of his car. Even if this fellow gave you a hop he would be a bad risk, as he is qualified to take number five position on a four-man comedy team and, as such, considers himself very, very funny.
every member of the faculty and do so when he intimates that he and Prof. Blank, who gave him a "Three Weeks Card," make the Damon and Pythias affair look like an introduction at a party. However, in quite a few cases the reverse of the foregoing is true. This is probably due to the fact that the couple have known each other for quite a while and have definite ideas about each other. In this case, the only conversation in which the thumber takes part is just after he gets in and just before he gets out.

There's another side to the story. The thumbers are far from perfect themselves. I know; I drove down for a while and picked up some of them. Many of them feel either that they are doing you a big favor by granting you their company or else that they are morally obligated to provide entertainment for the other passengers.

Perhaps the nerviest of the lot is the thumber who insists that you let him out someplace either on or out of the way so that he can get a hat, coat, or some other important item. It is—shall I say?—somewhat annoying to wait for him (wasting gasoline in the hope that he'll be along any minute).

Then, the woman-crazy type who feels that he must discourse at length upon his experiences with the opposite sex and feels forced to make conjectures upon the morals and attractiveness of anything he sees wearing a skirt. If the objects of his attention possess either of these qualities he doesn't care for them; but, after getting a good look at him, I'd say that the feeling should certainly be mutual.

Finally, comes the fellow student who must relate how he pulls the wool over the eyes of all his professors, constantly shames them in repartee, but gets lower grades than he deserves probably because they're jealous of his superior intellect. When he gets around to telling you how badly hoodwinked you were in your last repair job, your maximum of self-control is needed to keep you from throwing him violently out of the car.

But despite it all, I still think thumbing it is a better way of getting where you're going than peddling a bicycle.
One of the oldest organizations on the Delaware campus, the Aggie Club consists of all students enrolled in the agricultural curriculum. Chief among its activities is the publication of the Aggie News, a mimeographed magazine-newspaper appearing four times each year.

Each year, the organization holds a banquet which is attended by the club members, faculty, experimental station staff, and high school students from the entire state. This year's banquet was in the nature of a testimonial for Dean McCue.

Officers of the Aggie Club are Jack Lafferty, President; David Crocker, Vice President; and Edward H. Schabinger, Secretary. George K. Vapaa is Editor of the Aggie News.