

519 Students Sign Petition

Campus Comment

GROWING PAINS—A FACULTY MEMBER SPEAKS MISINFORMED—FROM A STUDENT A REQUEST—A SANE PROPOSAL

Dear Editor:
What are these howls of distress we hear around the campus and read about in the Spectrum? Some are alarmed, believing that they are the cries of an imposed on student body, but there are some of us who know that they are nothing but growing pains. Just as a fond Mother sympathizes with her growing boy and glories in the fact that he is getting to be such a fine big noisy fellow, just so some of us are sorry it has to be done but are rather pleased because we have the kind of students who realize that they are losing something and holler to high heaven because it hurts.

At the beginning of this decade when we had a few hundred students in our family-size college, these students were enjoying about as much liberty as is allowed in the universities in Europe. But as the numbers increased it became evident that something would have to be done, because the liberties allowed were being abused. The council gave a committee the job of seeing to it that our college students went to college. The people who suffered most intensely from growing pains at that period were members of the faculty, who were reluctant to admit that they no longer could know all of the students personally and deal with them accordingly. The discipline committee made slow progress in introducing practices that had grown old in most of the colleges of the country. They had bricks heaved at them by both faculty and students, but finally after many months and years of hard labor the discipline committee earned the right to assume the responsibility of seeing to it that the college students attend classes. By the time this right was earned the original committee was exhausted and the job was handed over to other hands. Dr. Pearce, head of the Chemistry Department, was one of the leaders in the reform movement. If he was now a member of the faculty, some of the recent contributors to the Spectrum would probably refer to him as an impractical idealist, trying out schemes in college that would not work in industry, but behold, commerce has claimed Dr. Pearce and his ideas as its very own. What are our industries coming to?

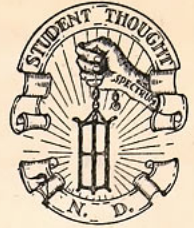
Through the intervening years the faculty has carried the responsibility of having the students attend classes and the records will show that they have done a reasonably good job of it. Most of the students have done their part, but on the other hand, the faculty representatives have spent many, many hours of hard labor taking care of the stragglers. This job has been so hard and so exacting that no one wanted to carry the load, and in fact many would not carry it, so that with our ever-increasing numbers something had to be done about it. The thing that has been done simply shifts the responsibility of attending classes onto the students, where it belongs.

So much for the past and present. We may look ahead and wonder whether we will hear more groans caused by growing pains. If we would venture to prophesy we would say that the next howls will arise when the students are required to go to classes the first day of every term, as they are in most of the institutions that we now delight to be classified with. The good old days are gone, but who would not rather belong to this fine, big student body that must take more of the responsibility of taking care of itself?

Signed—Uncle Dudley.
11-1-1929.

Dear Editor:
A short time ago President Shepperd penned a letter for the Spectrum that was destined to fill the students' hearts with gladness. In this letter was an explanation of the present cut system which put the system on a basis that was nearly satisfactory to all. In thinking matters over, and as we get a little more experienced in the results of the system we are
(Continued on Page 2)

THE SPECTRUM



VOLUME XLV. STATE COLLEGE, NORTH DAKOTA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1929. NUMBER 17

Colleges Tell Us Different

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of articles which will concern the attendance rulings as found in other schools of the country. Having had it impressed upon us repeatedly, as a major argument for its existence, that our present cut system is being used in the great colleges and universities of our country, we wrote some of the leading universities asking for data on their systems of absences and excuses. Their replies are available to anyone. They will be summarized for you as follows.

Columbia University, New York City
Students are allowed as many cuts per term as credit hours given in the course up to three; for more than three credit hours twice as many cuts are allowed as credits. If more cuts are taken than are allowed, "satisfactory excuses must be given." If the excuse does not merit approval, partial credit is deducted according to the seriousness of the case.

Apply the rod and spoil the child.

Military Ball Heads Named

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The chairmen of the various committees for the annual Military ball have been appointed and Captain F. Neal Baldwin, ball manager, reports that they are all working smoothly.

Committees and their chairmen are as follows: Lt. Col. L. S. Parsons, assistant manager; Capt. Lloyd Clark, floor manager; Capt. Clifford Booke, programs and favors; Capt. E. L. Knutson, publicity; Lieut. Alf Skaret, decorations; Capt. Archie Solberg, music and features; Capt. Russell Amidon, refreshments; Capt. Dorland Konichek, guests and invitations; Major Elmer Torkelson, tickets, and Capt. Victor Madsen, finance.

These committees have been functioning during the past two weeks and developments for the ball are well under way. The date has not been definitely decided upon as yet but will be announced in Friday's Spectrum.

The Military ball is an annual event, sponsored by Scabbard and Blade, honorary military fraternity, for members of the cadet unit and their friends. This will be the first function on the 1930 social calendar of the school. Scabbard and Blade promises the best party in the history of the institution this year.

Art Club Admits 14 To Membership

Initiation Will Take Place on December 12 at Regular Meeting

At a meeting of the Art Club, Thursday, November 21, fourteen girls were elected to membership. The following students have rated, by their outstandingly fine work in art, membership in the organization: Katherine Knerr, Maurine McCurdy, Lois Minard, Agnes Weible, Lillian Flatner, all of Fargo; Princess Egbert, New Rockford; Blanche Fletcher, Westhope; Ruby Steedsman, Larimore; Bernice Boyer, Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Marjorie Miller, Beach; Ann Brown, Moorhead, Minn.; Viola Seaburg, Dilworth, Minn.; Marion South, Casselton; and Marjorie Beattie, Lidgerwood.

Invitations were sent out by the club to be received during Thanksgiving vacation. Thursday, December 12, is the date set for the initiation. It is to be held in the studio in place of the regular meeting at that time. Virginia Keene is chairman of general arrangements for initiation.

"Y" HOP TO BE HELD FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Instead of Cadet Hops, they will be called "Y" hops. Yes, instead of no hops at all during the present basketball season, our student body will enjoy a social gathering every Friday afternoon, same to be sponsored by the Y. W. C. A. groups of the college, according to an announcement made today by Miss Billie Eastgate, member of the Y. W. C. A. board.

Most important of all is the fact that the first one will be held this coming Friday afternoon. Get your dates now!

"The attendance at the first hop will indicate the advisability of continuing the weekly all-college parties," Miss Eastgate stated. "The gymnasium in the college 'Y' building is an ideal location. It is sufficiently large to accommodate the crowds that have attended the Cadet Hops. Friday afternoon should suit everyone as the time for these hops, coming as it does, at the close of the week's work. Hank Presler's Vagabonds will play for you."

Stage Is Set For Coed Prom

Dorothy Smith Is Chosen as Partner for Katherine Knerr

Katherine Knerr, social chairman of the Y. W. C. A. and manager of the Coed Prom which will be given in the armory of the North Dakota State College Wednesday, December 4 at 8:30 p. m., has chosen Dorothy Smith to lead the prom with her. Both girls are members of Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity, Miss Knerr being a junior and Miss Smith a sophomore.

A Mardi Gras setting has been chosen for prom by the committee in charge of the decorations. The music will be furnished by a girls' orchestra.

The program, which will begin at nine o'clock, will be started by the grand march. During the march the judges, Dean Pearl Dinan, Misses Nancy Elliot and Minnie Anderson will select the most outstanding individual, the most original couple, the funniest couple, and one person will be selected on merits which will be announced the night of the prom.

Following the grand march Lou Culpepper will give a Hawaiian dance. Irene Richmond will do a tap dance. Popular songs will be sung by Mary Ricker. Luverne Dickinson will give a Swedish reading. An Apache dance will be presented by Grace Swanson and Florence Fleming.

Dean Alba Bales, Mesdames M. A. Williams, J. H. Shepperd, H. L. Walster, L. L. Carrick, A. D. Weeks, A. E. Minard, W. F. Sudro, I. W. Smith, P. F. Trowbridge, C. A. Williams, Cap E. Miller, F. W. Christianson, and Miss Esther Latzke will be the honored guests. All women of the faculty and the wives of the faculty members are cordially invited.

Any outside women interested in this party may witness same. A small fee will be charged for admission.

ALPHA ZETA INITIATES

Roy Jordre, Marvin Tunland, Clarence Kelly, Chester Rhines, and Vergil Weiser were initiated to Alpha Zeta at a luncheon given in their honor at Ceres Hall, Thursday evening, Nov. 20.

NEW ACTIVES OF KAPPA PHI

Initiation services were held Sunday afternoon at 3:30 by the Alpha Kappa Phi fraternity for the following men: George Fairhead, Rockford, Ill., Wilbur LaMarre, Grafton, Elsmere Chamberlain, Fargo, Phillip Kopang, Edmore, Milton Hagen, George Godfrey, and Clifford Bollman, all of Fargo.

Pent-Up Student Dissatisfaction Mirrored Through Late Results Of Cosmopolitan Club Efforts

MADSEN CHOSEN TO RUN ENGINEERS BALL

Thursday, November 21, at the regular meeting of the Engineers Club, Victor Madsen was elected as manager of the Engineers Annual Ball, and Melvin Hunt as manager of the Engineers Open House. Both are members of the Sigma Phi Delta, fraternity.

Everett Wallum Chosen Manager of Bison Review

Brevities Tentatively Booked for March 3rd and 4th

ELIMINATION CONTEST WILL BEGIN SOON

Blue Key Is Sponsoring This All College Vaudeville Show

Everett Wallum was chosen manager of the 1930 Bison Brevities at a meeting of Blue Key, sponsors of the event.

Wallum, who has taken an active part in the school's activities is a senior in the school of science and literature. He is president of Alpha Sigma Tau, social fraternity and is a member of the following groups: Pi Gamma Mu, honorary social science fraternity, Blue Key, and Gamma Tau Sigma. He was editor in chief of the 1929 Bison and is the Spectrum columnist.

By appointing Wallum as general manager of the show, Blue Key merges the two former offices of manager and finance manager. The fraternities and sororities have already appointed committees to handle the several acts and plans and ideas are progressing rapidly under their guidance. The tentative dates for the Brevities are March 3 and 4.

An elimination system exists in which the different organizations compete in the competitive tryout. From the tryouts, the eight best acts are to be chosen by a competent set of judges.

The Bison Brevities was inaugurated last year and met with instant success. Alpha Kappa Phi fraternity captured the large loving cup while Kappa Kappa Gamma was victorious in the sorority section.

Beaux Art Exhibit Is Now On Display

\$3,000 and Two Years' Study in Paris Is Coveted Prize

The Beaux-Arts exhibit will be on display at the Engineering building December 2, 3 and 4, under the direction of Prof. Huntoon. Three thousand dollars and two years' study at Ecole de Beaux-Arts at Paris is the prize which is awarded annually to the student architect of the United States who designs the most representative problem.

CUPID SCORES ANOTHER DELTA SIG VICTORY

Donovan McCain, house manager at the Delta Sig house, presented cigars to his fraternity brothers last evening. The name of the young lady, who is now living in Chicago, is Miss Edna Achterberg.

Sigma Phi Delta announces the pledging of Charles McKinney.

Cut Reform Is Sought by Majority of Students on Campus

NON-FRATERNITY GROUP ASSUME INITIATIVE

Excuse Committee Does Not Function According to Shepperd's Letter

"We, the undersigned, students of the North Dakota State College, hereby declare that the present 'no-cut system' is an unfair and unjust infringement of our rights as students and therefore should be abolished. We wish to advocate a system or plan to be established by and with the approval and sanction of the student body."

So declared five hundred and nineteen students in considering the new attendance system put into effect at the beginning of this term. The petitions were circulated by the members of the Cosmopolitan Club. In two days these petitions won signatures of nearly half of the student body, according to Mr. Paulson, president of that organization.

The new attendance law carries with it compulsory attendance at all classes with a penalty attached for failure to comply with the ruling. This penalty applies in the case of unexcused absences and consists of a dockage of two points from the final grade for each violation. A secret faculty committee is the executive body which determines the validity of the excuses.

Dissatisfaction Long Evident

It has been apparent that the student body and many of the faculty are opposed to this measure. Through the columns of this publication students have voiced their opinions. Unsolicited comment poured into the Spectrum office during the early part of the term. It became evident that students wished the paper to print their statements, and this, The Spectrum undertook to do. A small portion of these "student opinions" were published. The unanimous opposition they displayed indicated the trend of thought on the subject.

Dr. Shepperd Replies

Acting President Shepperd replied to some of the statements and stated the position of the College Council on the subject. He indicated that The Spectrum had fostered this discussion. Consequently the subject was dropped.

Cosmopolitans Act

It was left for the Cosmopolitan Club to take definite steps to present the opposition in a concrete way. After a lapse of several weeks this organization circulated petitions on the campus. It was understood that these were to be turned in at The
(Continued on Page 2)

Actors To Dominate Class Play Contest

Three casts of all male characters will distinguish the tenth annual one-act class play contest to be held Thursday evening, December 5, in the Little Country Theatre.

The plays in charge of the Freshman, Junior and Senior classes have no women characters, while the sophomore play carries only one male role. The casts are as follows:

The freshman play, "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler, by W. W. Jacobs and Charles Rock, a ghost story set in the Commercial room of an old-fashioned hotel, and directed by Helen Jensen, has the following characters: Penfold, Lester Peterson; Malcolm, Ronald Pearce, Hirst; Bill Heller; Somers, Clayton Spaulding; Doctor
(Continued on Page 4)

SPECIAL SUNDAY DINNER

Fried Spring Chicken 50c

VIKING CAFE

THE SPECTRUM

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SUMMARY

All we know is what the students tell us. N. D. S. C. has a band of upwards of eighty pieces—The Gold Star Band, under the direction of Dr. C. S. Putnam. Dr. Putnam, in his twenty-six years of service at this institution, has done as much as any other man in putting this school to the front. Witness the work of the band this fall. The organization was present at each of the several home football games, and at the University game held in Grand Forks. The musicians have taken part in numerous parades and downtown celebrations. The Gold Star Band appeared in concert once for the Masonic bodies and once for the students of this college.

The recent convocation concert indicated the tremendous possibilities that lie in a Military Band. In a professional way, we can only take the opinion of several of the downtown musical critics who seem to be of one accord, that is, that this same concert was of a very high order. For ourselves, we can say that the student body not only gave their instant approval, but general praise. This acclaim is deserved. The members of our band spend more time and energy than is generally supposed in pursuit of their musical activities and in the preparation of these concerts. Their work ranges from fiery military marches, through light popular numbers, to the depths of heavy concert classics.

But this is not the time to discuss this music. It speaks for itself. Let us give the boys themselves deserved credit for their many services to this institution. It is not human nature to applaud good deeds; we may have seemed unappreciative, the opposite is true.

Malme Electric

We join the football team in thanking the Malme Electric Co. for their loan of an excellent radio set to the boys on their recent trip to the Montana State game.

WANT-ADS

STUDENTS washing wanted—reasonable prices. 1205 8th Ave N.

LOST—Navy blue calfskin gloves. Bring to Spectrum office. Dorothea Anderson.

NEW GARAGE for rent; near AGR house. Call 2890J.

CAMPUS COMMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

led to believe that the President has been basely misinformed.

To quote Dr. Shepperd, the excuse committee will honor the excuses of physicians, parents, guardians, and landladies. To say the least, and judging by the actions of that committee, that statement is nothing more than a huge joke. The students of State college are, of course, the object. Experience teaches; and it has taught us that the excuse committee does not in many deserving cases honor the excuses of the above responsible persons even including the physicians.

Now it occurs to us that it isn't possible that a group of people like the excuse committee can be senseless enough to believe that the cut system is a fair one. That means that there must necessarily be a reason why the system survives. It is my honest belief that it can be no other than one of two reasons. The first cowardice, in as much that the committee fears the ridicule that would follow the abolition of the system. The second tyranny, in as much the committee loves to refuse an excuse and then chuckle over the crestfallen expression the student would undoubtedly wear when the news reaches him. I is also my belief that the latter reason is more apt to be true.

Now in the course of our education we are taught that the modern school has leanings toward democratic education, yet in 1929 comes the no-cut system which is a direct step toward the old monarchic type. That is really quite serious. North Dakota State college will turn out "meeklings" instead of free thinking citizens. A bunch of white livered individuals will be the result that can be compared to the old serfs of the feudal age. If this cut system be allowed to continue, farewell to the Bison spirit and good bye to what is left of American Democracy.

—A. T.

Dear Editor:

We are asking today a rather serious thing. We are asking the administrative powers of the North Dakota State college to reconsider a rule of discipline laid down at the beginning of the school year, namely, that no excuses shall be granted for absences from class-work except in cases of serious illness. The penalty for not providing sufficient excuse is two points deducted from the final grade attained by that student in the particular course for every absence.

I think we fully realize that the members of the faculty are earnestly striving to improve conditions on the campus in all ways, that they are trying to accomplish the best results under all possible circumstances. With this in view the student body has tried to take the same attitude, and has tried the so-called cut system, has looked at it from many angles, and now, toward the end of the first term, has found it wanting.

We have tried to be fair and just, and we ask you to take the same attitude in examining our objections to this system and our reasons for urg-

ing its abolishment or modification. We believe:

1. That such a system, using pressure on the student in attendance of classes, puts him in a position of weak obedience to authority instead of giving him a chance to develop his own initiative and sense of honor.

2. That it is a continuation of a high-school attitude toward education which is not in accordance with the higher ideals of development now dominating the life on our more modern university and college campuses.

3. That it does not recognize the need for time for outside activities which are a rather important part, so we are told, of our present day educational development.

4. That in practice, realizing that there are times when a student is unable to attend class, the punishment in aggregate lowers the standard of the college and is not truly indicative of the work done.

5. That the system as a whole is idealistic, tending to take into account only the small percentage of students who are unreliable and of low ability, and restricting the large majority who are self-respecting, hard-working and fair-minded, and places this college, according to statistics received from such universities as Northwestern, Columbia, Minnesota, and Wisconsin with the small and peculiarly unsuccessful minority.

—T. R.

Boys of 14 nationalities and 16 religious sects are in attendance at the American School for Boys in the old city of Bagdad, Iraq, founded four years ago.

Student Dissatisfaction Mirrored Through Results of Club Efforts

(Continued from Page 1)

Spectrum office. The officials of the college publication refused to have anything to do with the matter, however. Consequently most of the signatures were lost or destroyed by different campus organizations.

Second Attempt Made

On November 25 Joe Paulson, president of the Cosmopolitan Club, appointed a committee of three to take charge of the matter. This group consisted of Alvin Schroeder, Claire Hallock, and Victor McCloud. New petitions were sent to the various campus organizations on that day. By Tuesday, November 26, five hundred and nineteen students had signed.

Position Stated

Mr. Paulson, in commenting on the action of the non-fraternity organization, said: "We sincerely believe that

the present attendance law violates the trend of modern educational methods, that it is unfair to the students who help support this institution, that it is the wrong method to take in seeking to raise the standards of the school. Furthermore, the Cosmopolitan Club undertook to present in tangible form the true opinion of the student body which we felt to be in accordance with our convictions."

Method Described

No member of the Cosmopolitan Club attempted to gain signatures, Mr. Paulson said. "The members of the committee presented the petitions to the campus organizations and merely requested that they be considered. At a later date the petitions were collected without comment."

It is generally understood that these signatures are to be presented to the Acting President at a later date. "We wish to give the students an opportunity to express themselves on the matter," the Cosmopolitan committee said today.

TO MEET ME

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Ebullitions of Ebony Blott

By Everett Wallum

We've deserted on the no-cut system so much that we feel like a veteran of a butcher's war. But to stave off the leering intimidations of an unfeeling editor, we will touch on the subject by pecking into a meeting of the excuse committee busily making momentous decisions:

Chairman: Meeting will come to order. The secretary will call the roll.

Secretary: No use. There's no one here but me and you. The rest got off to their mother-in-law funerals.

Chairman: Bigamists!
Sec.: Well, let's get down to business; those guys just clutter up the office, anyhow. Here's one from Kenneth McCullough. Says he was absent because he was teething.

Chair.: Thank God! Well, well, I remember when my little Oscar - - -
Sec.: Granted, then. Here's one from Bob Weir. Says he bumped his head on entering a hot dog shop. Forgot to stoop.

Chair.: If he had a head he would not be frequenting the kennels. Turn it down. I hate hot dogs, anyhow.

Sec.: This one from Cliff Booke says that he was absent Friday because he had to get a green celluloid covering for his mustache. The city commission insists he stops traffic every time he goes up town.

Chair.: Turn it down. He could have dyed it with the ink in his fountain pen.

Sec.: Here's one, but it isn't signed so we might just as well throw it

away.
Chair.: Wait a minute. That guy's modest. I like modesty. Grant it.
Sec.: Here's a fellow who says he stayed home because of indiscretion.
Chair.: Wotta nerve! No fellow can get excused through negligence.
Sec.: Yeh, but it was a skunk's negligence.

Chair.: (grudgingly) All right, then, excuse the skunk.

Sec.: This fellow says he was up all night battling with a crossword puzzle and was too tired to go to school the next day.

Chair.: Poor fellow. He shouldn't have gotten married. Grant it.

Sec.: Here's one on pink paper.

Chair: (disgustedly) Turn it down.

Sec.: This fellow has sleeping sickness, according to his mother.

Chair: He is a normal student. Turn it down.

Sec.: This fellow says he couldn't come because of an epidemic inflammation and swelling of the parotid glands.

Chair: What does he mean?

Sec.: I don't know.

Chair: Grant it. And give me the paper. I'll have to pull that one on my wife when I'm late at the next lodge meeting.

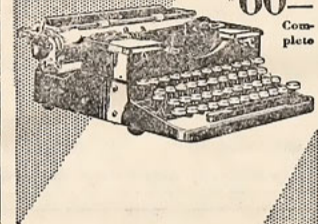
Sec.: Let me copy it. That's all today.

Chair: Ho hum!

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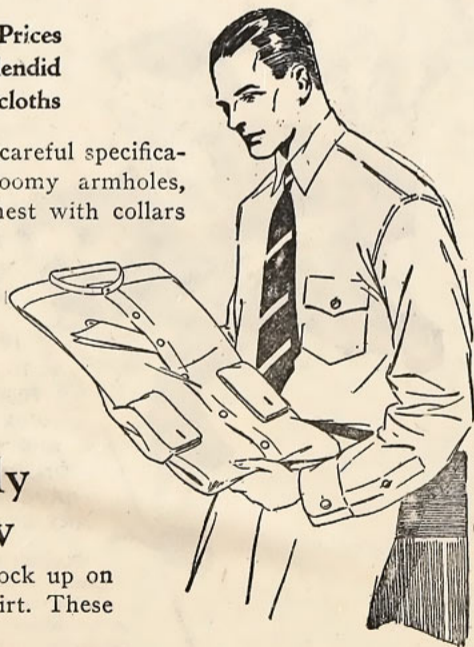
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Official Bulletin

NOTICE, IMPORTANT

Fraternity-sorority Bison Brevities representatives will meet in the Faculty-Alumni club rooms in the basement of Old Main, Thursday at 4:30 p. m., Dec. 5. A member of each organization must be present.
Everett Wallum, Manager.

NOTICE

The League of Women Voters will hold its second meeting Tuesday noon in the little Dining room in Ceres hall at 12:00 noon. The girls are requested to take their tray lunches in there.

NOTICE

A Pan-Hellenic meeting will be held Thursday at 4:00 in the Alumni faculty club rooms in Main building.

NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Senior Staff Thursday noon at 12:00 in the little dining room in Ceres Hall.

The Senior Staff will hold a meeting in the Tea Room of Ceres Hall, Thursday noon.

Arlene Burt, Pres.

Tryouts for all the college debates will be held on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 4, from 2 to 5 in the Seminar Room of Main Building. Students desiring to tryout should come prepared to give a five minute talk for or against any debatable topic. Suggested topics include: Disarmament, Installment Buying, Prohibition, Tariff, Advertising, etc.

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ACTORS TO DOMINATE CLASS PLAY CONTEST

(Continued from Page 1)

gene Gadde; George (a waiter) Payson Spaulding.

"Riders to the Sea", an Irish tragedy by John M. Synge, has for its setting a bleak coast of an island near Ireland, and is built around a popular Irish superstition. Elene Weeks will play the part of Maurya, an old woman, Claire Newell will be Leek, Chris Bjorerson; Beldon, Eucathleen, her daughter, and Dorothea Olson, Nora, a younger daughter. Earl Welch will interpret the role of the son, and Dan Howell, Tony Faber, Kenneth Wyard, Lois Klinsmann, Jane Canniff and Myrna Ottinger will constitute the crowd of old men and women. It will be directed by Laura Watkins.

The Junior play has a military theme, and those who will portray "The Hand of Siva", by Kenneth Goodman and Ben Hecht, are Ross Cone as Henri Durot; Charles Heilman, Major Wellington; Noral Severson Captain Ashley; Morris Erickson, Kodah Kahn; and Bob Olson, Mahib. Katherine Knerr and Ruth Whitney are directing.

An eighteenth century setting has been planned for "The Waning Moon", by Louise Van Voorhis Armstrong, the Senior play. Characters are Christopher Sloan, Ben Kouba; Richard Sloan, his grandson, Kenneth McCullough; Gabriel, Jesse Reynolds; Father Joseph, Ralph Welch; Pirates, Ralph Huff, Hoyt de Kleine and Ole

Sand. The director is Ruth Boerth. This play contest is sponsored every year by the Public Discussion department, the last contest being won by the Senior class with "The Thread of Scarlet".

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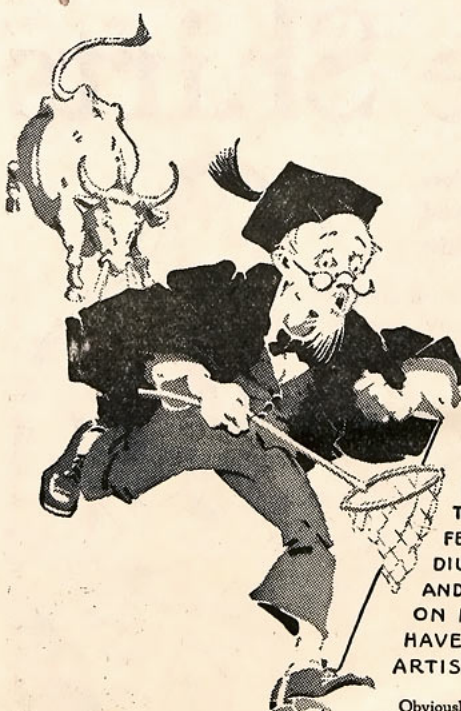


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