



# The Argonaut

Official publication of the Associated Student Body, issued every Tuesday and Friday of the school year.

### THE ARGONAUT BOARD

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### "Hell Week"

There is developing on campuses of colleges throughout the United States a quiet rebellion against the so-called "Hell week" observed by Greek letter societies and other organizations in shaping their pledges for membership. The move has been furthered by the collegiate press of the nation, and now seems to hold repulsiveness. It has brought forth the charge that such physical manifestations are but relics of days when ancient tortured young men to test them for physical prowess.

Along with this outcry against fraternity tradition is closely linked one which opposes "brutal bullying" of freshmen by sophomore groups and upperclassmen at large. It is argued by proponents of this latter move that freshmen are men, and have a right to be treated as such; furthermore that public hazing spectacles, brutal, asinine, and humiliating treatment of first year victims is mighty poor business.

The move has gained such headway at Cornell that next year freshmen and sophomores will have to go without their annual mudslinging fiesta. The student council has abolished the spring mud rush. The Cornell Alumni News comments on the action as follows: "Maybe the upper-classmen, who control the council, are getting blasé and little-gentlemanly; maybe the mad rush was a silly performance, anyway." All over the nation college papers have condemned the so-called tradition, the center of which is maltreatment of first year men, both in fraternities and on the campus.

This seems to be a move which has taken several years to get into action and which, now, is seizing ancient traditions by the bristles and relegating them to the trash heap, where, no doubt they belong. It is a move which has accomplished the general enlightenment of college students on things not confined specifically to scholastic activity in the colleges. And it is probably a move which eventually will spell the abolishment of the much talked about "Hell week" unique with fraternities.

"Hell week" is the carrying over from ancient civilization a practice which seems without justification, when viewed in terms of today. Since modern man is attempting to shift his accent from scalping to science, it is hard to see why such a practice is allowed on modern day campuses. Assumption of the position by the frosh does little to develop in him the principles of fraternalism; but on the other hand, leaves with him a memory which is far stronger than the ritual of formal initiation. Ask him in later years what he remembers most; and almost without exception the former neophyte will say that "Hell week" stands out pre-dominantly in his mind. If this is true, then, it seems that the impressiveness and subsequent value in initiation into a fraternity is lost. From that phase of the week which relies upon strong application of "the big stick" for impressiveness, it is inconceivable that any person would admit that he was benefited. And, without the benefit in a material or spiritual way, nothing but tradition can be used as an excuse for the practice. And tradition also leads to fossilization in some instances.

It is extremely gratifying that "Hell week" has gone so far as it has on the Idaho campus. Most fraternities have fallen in line with the more enlightened colleges of the nation and have abolished all but "in-side" demonstrations. In many groups here, even the "inside" practice is growing obsolete. As a result of this, groups of neophytes parading on the campus in moonlight, going through all sorts of terrifying antics, such as diving headlong through rows of bushes, blindfolded and racing across the campus, notwithstanding the fact that trees and other objects often are in the path, and similar practices, have almost disappeared.

This is all good; and all the powers that control such things should rejoice in the fact that they have at least started the trend in the right direction.

## CAMPUS INN

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**VAN'S**

## TRADITIONS AT IDAHO

This is the third of a series of articles detailing Idaho traditions. Additional ones will appear in The Argonaut from time to time.—The Editor.

(By George Young)

It has been customary for several years to call Idaho athletic teams "Vandals". The name has been on the lips of students of the university hundreds of times, and the name has been used continually by sport writers throughout the United States. Idaho annual editors have featured the ancient Vandals throughout their pages. It has grown to be a part of the university; in a sense is traditional.

Although it is commonly known that the original Vandals were a Teutonic tribe living in Central Europe about 400 A. D., there are very few who know the story of the origin of its use in symbolizing Idaho teams.

Through the efforts of E. F. Mason, director of publications for the university, an old news item was dug up that spoke of a wild Irishman who in his freshman year in 1916 wrote for The Argonaut, Lloyd McCarthy, he was called and he is said to have had a hobby of tacking nick-names on his friends or most anyone or anything

he had associations with. He was not a true student; in fact, the old write-up which spoke of him, said he left school early in his freshman year with sore eyes due to over-study in his medieval history class. Dean J. G. Eldridge says he has faint recollection of a McCarthy who was good at everything except quiet studying, and who was expelled by the scholarship committee. No trace of the name can be found on the records in the registrar's office.

Nevertheless, it was Lloyd McCarthy who dubbed an Idaho basketball team the "Vandals", in 1916. The explanatory article says that McCarthy was impressed with the way the Idaho basketball team was beating everything within its sweep that year, so in one of his write-ups on the success of the quintet he called them "Vandals".

Gradually the name was adopted by sport writers on other college papers and dailies and with the progression of time it was used to not only symbolize the basketball team but any team that represented Idaho in athletic competition.

Lloyd McCarthy may have been a wild Irishman; he may have had all the qualities of a typical red-headed brick heaver, but he was a founder of the name which now symbolizes the Idaho teams; a name that will grow

with the university; a name that has been and will be respected by competing athletes, and by sport enthusiasts.

### CANADIAN JACKETS

McGill University, Montreal—The students at McGill university have established the custom of wearing bright scarlet jackets imported from England. A combination crest of the university and the crown of England is embroidered on the right side.

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### HIKING REPORTS DUE

All reports for hiking mileage must be handed to hiking sport leader before final exam week, in order to be counted toward W. A. A. points.

#### A. W. U. I. MEETS TUESDAY

The Women's league of the A. W. U. I. meets Tuesday, December 14, at 5 o'clock in room 110 of the Science hall. Dr. Henrietta Tromanhusser will be the speaker. All women are urged to attend.

#### "I" CLUB DANCE SATURDAY

The "I" club is giving an all college dance at the Blue Bucket, December 18.

#### EPISCOPAL CLUB BANQUET

Episcopal students and all those who prefer that faith are invited to the Episcopal club banquet at Guild hall, Thursday December 16, at 6 o'clock.

#### MISS JOHNSON TO SING

Sigma Alpha Iota presents Jennie F. W. Johnson in a Christmas carol concert at the First Lutheran church, Tuesday, December 14, at 8 o'clock.

#### GUILD INITIATES

The Westminster Guild initiation banquet will be held at the Presbyterian church, Tuesday evening, December 14, at 6 o'clock.

#### BLUE KEY MEETS MONDAY

All members and pledges of the Blue Key will meet Monday, December 20, at the Blue Bucket.

An important meeting of the Scabard and Blade will be held Thursday evening, December 16, at 7:30 o'clock at the Sigma Chi house, it is announced.

#### PREXY TO TALK

President A. H. Upham will be the speaker at the weekly assembly. The remainder of the period will be devoted to the singing of Christmas carols under the direction of the department of music.

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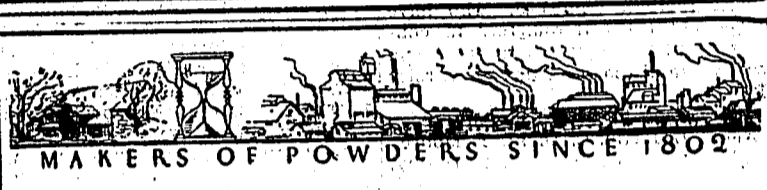
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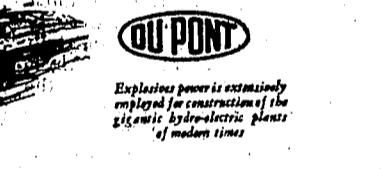
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## University Women

### Please Note!

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