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## Portland Junior College Newsance, 11/15/1956

Kilton L. Saunders  
*Portland Junior College*

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# The Newsance

THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF PORTLAND JUNIOR COLLEGE

Vol. 3

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1956

No. 8

## MID-TERM GRADES GET FACE LIFTING

### BOGUS "NO SCHOOL" ANNOUNCEMENT ABSENTS 60

The "no-school" announcement over Radio Station WJOR Monday morning that was responsible for the absence of more than 60 PJC students may have been the result of a hoax, according to Dean Bonney. He said that, as a rule, PJC stays open no matter what the weather, but he added he will take concrete steps to insure that no repetition of Monday's occurrence will happen again. Monday's absentees will not be officially recorded by the office staff, however. Bonney said there has been no agreement with local stations concerning no-school-announcements and he has no idea why the announcement was made.

The college, incidentally, has been closed only once since its founding because of weather. It was closed for a week due to the great blizzard of February, 1952. The drifts were over seven feet high in front of East Hall and none of the area around the campus had been cleared.

### CONGRESSIONAL COFFIN TO BE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

Mr. Frank Coffin, the first Democrat to be elected to Congress from Maine in 25 years, will be the guest speaker at the assembly program today, according to Robert Flynn, student assembly programmer.

Coffin managed the highly successful gubernatorial campaign for Gov. Edmund Muskie in 1954. Flynn said Coffin will speak about his duties as a Representative. Coffin, a native of Lewiston, graduated from Bates College with honors and went on to Harvard Law School.

### NAPPI APPOINTED PJC PUBLICITY AGENT

John Jaques announced yesterday the appointment of Micheal Nappi as publicity agent for PJC, and his assistant, Frank Cavallaro. Both are Freshmen. Nappi's duties include collecting news of PJC clubs, assemblies and other activities, mimeographing it and mailing it to the various radio and TV stations and newspapers in southern Maine.

(cont'd. first col., next page)

### MID-SEMESTERS TO BE RECORDED BY STATEMENT OF STANDING \*NOT LETTERS: JOHNSON

The mid-semester grades will be handled in an entirely different manner than in previous years, according to Justin G. Johnson, Dean of the Faculty. The new system differs from the old in that, instead of giving students letter grades, the grades will be as follows: Above Average, Average, Below Average, Not Satisfactory.

Johnson reported that it was the opinion of the faculty that the letter grades tend to differentiate too sharply early in a course. In the "cumulative courses" (Math, Language, Accounting, etc.) the principle purpose of grades should be to indicate a student's mastery of a course. Therefore, the final marks should be the ones of importance. The purpose of the new grades is to give a student a view of where he stands in a course more exactly and more realistically than the old system.

According to Johnson, the new grading system is a "fusion of ideas" of the members of the faculty, who emphasized that this new system applies only to mid-semester (both first and second), and not final semester grades.

Mr. Johnson added the mid-semester marks should be out early next week.

Johnson reported that secondary schools and junior colleges all over the country are using this system more and more, and that this system is not really "new" but has been used over 30 years ago.

Three copies of the transcripts are made by the instructors; one sent to the student's home; one for the student; and one for the school.

Mr. Johnson said if PJC affiliates with the U. of Maine, we might revert to their letter-grading system, which is much the same as that used throughout the country.

Al Clarke's attitude toward the new system was "wait and see," though he was generally optimistic.

Dean Bonney emphasized the new system is one of "reporting," not of "grading." He claimed the system will give more information about the student. He added that grades were little this time of year.



NAPPI APPOINTED (cont'd from Page 1)

Both Jaques and Nappi emphasized it would be appreciated if any students having news about this campus notify them. Nappi said he expects "Close cooperation and support" from the college newspapers. He added he has no definite projects in mind at present. He was appointed, according to Jaques, because of his writing ability.

HAUCK, BONNEY CONFER OVER CAMPUS LAYOUT

Arthur A. Hauck, president of the U. of Maine, conferred with Dean Bonney last weekend, giving the University's Campus Planning Committee an idea of our present campus layout. According to Bonney there was general agreement about first building a science building with laboratories sometime in the unforeseeable future.

Hauck wanted to send civil engineers to survey PJC's land to determine what buildings could be put up after the proposed merger with the University, a reliable source indicated yesterday.

CAMERA CLUB PLANS PICTURE SCRAPBOOK FOR LIBRARY

A scrapbook of the best pictures taken each college year has been proposed by members of the Camera Club according to faculty advisor E.D.Clark. It will be put in the library with all pictures and negatives numbered to facilitate student orders. Students wanting pictures should contact a club member. Students already having pictures may have them enlarged and exhibited for 25¢; special shots taken, developed and exhibited by the Club cost 40¢ each.

The Club's darkroom in the #300 building has been light-proofed, with all the light-leaks tracked down and fixed, according to Clark. This has been done in previous years with plywood planks and black shades, but members of the club were obliged to do it again in the past 2 weeks.

JAZZ CLUB PLANS CHRISTMAS DANCE, JAZZ CONCERT

The Jazz Club will begin plans this week for a Christmas Dance to be held sometime in December, Thomas Gay, faculty advisor announced yesterday. A Jazz Concert is also being planned for the middle of January; the club is contacting musicians. According to a club member, Norm LaCharité, a similar concert held last year was "very successful." He said the club will be grateful for volunteers to print or sell tickets or otherwise help the club.

THE TIME IS NINE!

Your pledges for the building fund will be collected today after Assembly.

OUTING CLUB PLANS CLIMB

The Outing Club is tentatively planning a mountain climbing trip before Xmas.

SENIOR CLASS TO HOLD AUCTION

The Senior Class will hold an auction, Saturday, Dec. 8th, in the college auditorium. Officers of the Senior Class are in the process of collecting items for auction. They have sent out letters to the parents of PJC students asking their cooperation by donating used or preferably new articles. The auction will be open to parents, students, and friends, and will be run by the Senior Class officers. According to Jayne McDuffie, class Treasurer, the purpose of the auction is to defray graduation expenses for the class.

This will be the third auction staged by this year's Senior Class; both previous auctions were on a smaller scale, although according to McDuffie, both were very successful. Last year's auction netted \$61.95, and last week's exceeded that amount. A few items, not auctioned off last Wednesday because of the lack of time will be auctioned off Dec. 8th. McDuffie stressed the class will welcome articles from any student.

Dean Bonney offered this comment: "My activity (at Wednesday's auction) should be an indication of my opinion of a Scotch auction. It's a fine way to have a good time and make money. A great deal depends on the auctioneer, on how good the auction will be." He added that last week's auctioneer, Clyde McDonald, a PJC grad and now a student at Bates, turned in a very fine performance.

STATE POLICE CHIEF TO BE GUEST OF "ON THE SPOT"

Col. Robert Marx, Chief of Maine State Police, will be the guest of the TV Club's program, "On the Spot," Thursday, Dec. 27, at 1:00 PM on WCSM-TV. Marx, in a statement for the Press Herald, said the present 190 man force is inadequate to meet the increasing traffic problem.

In the past five years, he said, Maine's highway death rate has been cut from 5 to 4.6 per 100 million miles even though highway travel has increased 27% during that same period. Yet there has been no increase in the number of policemen available for patrol duty, Marx added.

Col. Marx plans to use charts for purposes of illustration on the program.

LOST- BUT FOUND:

1. Gray gabardine wind-breaker jacket in the #100 building corridor.
2. Heavy grey-tan jacket, quilted lining with fur collar and a pair of leather gloves in the pocket, in the library.

Mrs. Leighton, of the bookstore, hereby serves notice she will turn these articles over to the Scotch auction, Dec. 8th, if they are not claimed prior to that date.

Although no definite plans have been set, a small appropriation was included for the trip in the club's budget.