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The Ursinus Weekly, September 30, 1929

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Ursinus College

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The Ursinus Weekly

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1929

EDITOR OF THIS ISSUE ALBERT S. THOMPSON

Editorial Comment

FRESHMEN AND THE WEEKLY

In another part of this issue there will be found a notice calling a meeting of freshman candidates for the Weekly staff. This announcement is earlier in its appearance than in previous years, and with some reason. As an extra-curriculum activity the Weekly, for the student who wishes to be a part of it, is an organization which is built up progressively from the four classes present in college each year. In the ordinary course of events a number of students try out for the staff each year, and some are elected reporters. As the years pass these are elected special feature writers, associate editors, and eventually one becomes editor-in-chief. And as they are advanced in the staff others of the lower classes take the subordinate places which they have vacated. Thus it is quite obvious that there is a necessity each year that students from the lower classes join the staff and carry on the work.

It must not be inferred from what was said in the last paragraph that only freshmen are wanted on the staff. That would be a stupid and unjustifiable inference to make. Upperclassmen and sophomores are encouraged and gladly welcomed to help in the work, and there are some things which upperclassmen alone can do. But generally speaking it is to the incoming class that the Weekly looks for the candidates who will eventually continue the publication. And it is to the freshmen in particular that this editorial is directed.

If as a freshman, you feel that you would like to work for the Weekly, start now. It is a too common tale to hear seniors regret that they did not go out for the Weekly as frosh. If you want to be a reporter, try out now. The chance is ten to one that you will think it too late and give up the idea altogether if you decide in the affirmative a semester or two from now. This fact is also a reminder that those who wish to work on the Weekly staff should do so with the intent of making it the major activity or at least the most important minor of the four years in college. The use of merely the odd moments is not sufficient.

Many students suppose that a literary style is necessary for work on a newspaper. That is pure bosh. All that is required of Weekly candidates is an ability to write grammatically correct English and a willingness to work. Two attributes which should exist in every college student. As for its rewards they are not so obvious. But it is sufficient to say here that rewards do exist and that those who work on college newspapers get something which oftentimes seeds them in good stead in later life. But that is looking too far ahead. The Weekly encourages all students who wish to join its organization to come out and try their hands at cub reporting. It will be found well worth the trouble.

C. D. Y., '30.

WRESTLING AT URSINUS

Several times during the past few years attempts have been made to found at Ursinus either a wrestling team, a boxing team, or both. Owing to lack of interest, and more especially to lack of financial support, the projects were dropped. But this year Ursinus intends to enter the field of wrestling. It was hoped that boxing as well might be initiated, but the Athletic Council decreed otherwise. Provision has been made for the support of the mat game, and we feel sure that at last the venture will meet with success.

Ursinus is fortunate in having in its student enrollment a man perfectly capable of coaching a wrestling team; we refer to Charles Metcalf '30, who understands thoroughly every phase of the game. In addition, we feel sure that he will creditably represent the College when he himself enters the ring.

Let's all get together and boost this new sport! Practice and tryouts will not begin for some time, but meanwhile—boost! There are several men on the campus, some of them with us for the first time this year, who have had some wrestling experience. There are many others who have great possibilities. Such men, under Metcalf's excellent coaching, should develop into wrestlers quite capable of representing Ursinus in a worthy manner.

At sometime in the future a meeting of all men interested will be called, at which time a captain and a manager will be elected. In the meantime talk it up! Let's have a real wrestling team, one that will meet opponents with all the fighting spirit of Ursinus!

I. T. F., '30.

IMPROVING THE GROUP SYSTEM

Some years ago the Group system was instituted in Ursinus College. It marked the turning point between the time when college students could take a mixture of courses, picked by them for all sorts of reasons and not offering any definite training or balance of training and the present system under which one must join a group designed for a special end suited to the student's needs. A certain number of required courses are included which to hurried opinion seem useless but which are in accordance with the balanced training and knowledge that is the ideal of Ursinus. It was truly a beneficial innovation and one that has strengthened its position in Ursinus despite a few years of criticism.

However well this system seems to accomplish the primary reason for its existence, yet it could be improved greatly in one phase and that is—in its utility as a means of gathering together the students with the same end in view and as a means of enabling them to do personal work and investigation in their various fields. All this is supposed to be and can be accomplished thru regular and well-planned meetings of the various groups. These groups should form societies based upon the nature of the studies in that group.

No doubt the group system as planned was to take this responsibility and in the case of a few of the best groups, it has. But as a general rule, the group meetings, held irregularly and often not well-planned and worked

out, are considered by the students as merely a waste of time. This is readily assented to by the Treasurer of any of these groups. The reluctance with which the members of the group pay their dues and the difficulty the Treasurer has of collecting them points to the fact that the students don't consider them of much worth and just think "well here goes some more money with no appreciable return."

The time is now ideal for changing the attitude toward group meetings. None have been held as yet this year and any improvements can be instituted from the outset. Our suggestions are these. Let these groups take on the names of various societies, appropriate to the studies in that group. Let the meetings be more frequent and regular. Let a friendly rivalry exist between the groups to possess the most active and progressive society. Have prominent men in the various lines speak and present their views at these meetings. Prove to the members that they should attend and offer their help if they consider themselves interested in their chosen field. Make them realize that there they can obtain that supplementary and most recent knowledge which one needs to keep abreast of his subject. Then try to keep them away from the meetings.

One large branch of modern study, however, is slighted by this plan. It is Education, which has no group of its own. The subject Education is well adapted to this sort of work. Current material is plentiful. It is still unsettled enough in principle to offer subjects for interesting and hotly contested discussion. It is taking its place among the major studies at Ursinus. We wish the administration would make some provision whereby students in Education could have the same privileges that would be offered to the other groups under this extended plan.

A. S. T., '31.

FROSH-SOPH FIGHT

This is Graham MacNamee reporting in full the incidents, details and whatnots of the customary Frosh-Soph battle for acquisition of the Freeland Hall bell rope. From my ringside seat, perched on a narrow ledge overlooking the precipitous heights of Dog-house, I can see the Sophomores, hastening from the field at which their team staged a losing battle, trying to save the honor of the day by preventing the Frosh from sounding the peal of victory. There are now ten Sophomores gathered along the railing surrounding the bell tower. Freshmen are beginning to arrive but unlearned in the customs of Ursinus, they look passively on, bewildered at the significance of it all. The blustering Sophs uttering challenges, halt the Frosh and make them hesitate. Now, members of the Junior class, friends of the Frosh, are taking a guiding hand and explaining things to the first year men. A few of them are giving directions as to how to reach the roof and gain a point of vantage. I see them talking and gesticulating to several Frosh over at the doctor's office but to no avail because these Frosh, either too unlearned or not possessing a sufficient class spirit say they must go to the doctor's office to be examined and they watch on passively, clutching those precious yellow examination cards in their dear little hands.

What ho! What's this? I can't see distinctly because of a rushing and bustling around the tower. Ah! Now the dust settles, human appendages are unentangled and I see that two brave Frosh alone tried to ring the bell. Their names are not now known and they are beaten beyond recognition. 'Twas a mighty effort and they should go down in memory.

Now I see more Frosh gathering. Finally they seem to have gotten hold of the significance of the scramble. Here comes a car bearing the majority of the tug-of-war team and entwined around it the rope gained in victory. Tired as they are from the titanic struggle on Highland field they immediately swell the gathering crowd of Freshmen and en masse the attackers gain the roof and line up below the balustrade above which are the bold and threatening Sophomores. Now, nothing is happening. Let me interrupt to say that the sky is bright above. It is a wonderful day for canoeing, instead of a brawl. Now I hear urgings and yells from the onlookers, those with the high point box seats on Derr Hall roof. The Frosh are gathering nerve, a period of tenseness follows and then—look here—the Frosh as a man climb over the railing and rush the Sophomores who are from their advantageous position easily holding their own. But numbers are prevailing. Here and there I see a Frosh breaking thru the line and attacking from the rear. Now enough are up to storm the bell-tower where the object of the struggle is protected by a number of Sophomores.

Oh! Now it is in full swing. First the Sophs have the advantage. Then the Frosh, and alternating back and forth. I see a few burly Frosh attempting to batter their way into the tower. Now they are breaking down the sides of the tower. It looks bad for the Sophomores and it seems but a matter of a few minutes. Now I see a valiant struggle within the tower and—clang, clang, there goes the bell. A shout arises from the spectators and many take their departure because the pealing of the bell announces the climax of the fight. However those who have lingered witness a courageous but unavailing attempt of a Sophomore to win his way back within the tower. Now even he gives up and the affair comes to a

close and the contestants limp and drag their weary bodies to their rooms. Peace again prevails and the Frosh are jubilant over their complete victory. This is Graham MacNamee reporting in full detail thru the courtesy of The Ursinus Weekly.

Rev. Edmund Ullrich, '26, is serving his first pastorate at Weissport, Penna.

Rev. Fred D. Pentz, '26, is at present pastor of Salem's Church, Mechanicsburg, Penna.

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The Tower Window

THE old bell that hangs in the cupola of Freeland Hall commands a feeling of peculiar devotion of every alumnus and former student of Ursinus. For eighty years it has rung out the hours in the daily program of the institution. Its tones are still familiar to those who have not heard it for many a year. Some years ago I had in my house as a visitor one who had been a student here back in the '70s. As we sat at breakfast the old bell sounded forth and the man started like a fire horse.

Last week in the course of an argument between sophomores and freshmen as to whether the bell should be used to celebrate the victory in the tug-of-war, the argument having been carried on in the Freeland Hall cupola, the wheel of the bell rather than either of the classes, yielded in the discussion, or rather, the percussion, with the result that the historic instrument is now unable to function in normal fashion.

The wheel having been broken beyond repair, the chief executive officer of the College had to betake himself to Philadelphia and find a new one. After trying at a number of places and having been referred in each instance to some one else, he finally found a man who was able to make a new wheel after the same pattern as the old. In this search every move took him farther down into the old part of Philadelphia in which small factories have existed ever since the founding of the city. In New Street which is not new at all but as old as the city itself, in one of the little old weather-beaten brick buildings he found an interesting man whose letter head announces "patterns made" and "inventions developed." This man took the order and in the course of a fortnight we expect to have the old bell equipped exactly as of yore—with a four-foot wheel of oak work.

The wheel which now goes into retirement was made, no doubt, when the bell was erected soon after the opening of Freeland Seminary. The school probably got along for a year without a tower bell. At any rate the instrument bears the inscription "Cast by J. Bernhard, No. 78, N. 6th street, Philada. 1849." It was probably ordered during the first year of the school and installed after mid-year in 1849.

We hope the new wheel which we have reason to believe will be more firmly made than was the old, will swing the old bell for another eighty years. There are other means of calling classes today, and for many years Ursinus has had the electric program clock. However, sentiment and tradition demand that the old bell continue to call faculty and students to their daily tasks. In 1912 when Freeland Hall was remodeled a proposal to do away with the bell was met with such a storm of protest that no one after that dared mention it even under his breath.

The boys who during the past four-score years have served in the self-help position of bell-ringer, have an especially friendly feeling for the old bell and will be pleased to read that it has weathered another tempest. It will ring out the year 1929 with the same rhythmic swing that it rang out the year 1849.

G. L. O.

ALUMNI NOTES

Walter Scheirer, '29, is continuing his study of music at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Mass.

The especial honor of head of the Economics department of University of Omaha, at Omaha, has been conferred on Shepherd Whitman, '28.

Ruth Von Steuben, '28, is attending the University of Pittsburgh, where she is preparing for personnel work.

Olive Sargeant, '29 has obtained a position in the Bensalem high school as teacher of Latin and English.

Richard Snyder '29, now located in Lansdale, Pa., teaches science at the Lansdale High School.

Abbie Carter, '29, is working in the statistical department of the Compensation Bureau, in Philadelphia.

Dave Harrison, '29, has attained the office of Assistant Manager of the Fisk Tire Headquarters at Springfield, Mass.

Emma Tower, '28, is working in the Correspondence Department of the Bell Telephone Co., Baltimore, Md.

ANOTHER OPEN LETTER

Dear Editor:
Really you should have been there. I know you'd have enjoyed it. I mean the Frosh Cheering Meeting on Monday night. It was the peppiest thing. Of course the frosh are a whole lot fresher than we are—but we ought to have more staying power if practice means anything—don't you think so?
Honestly, I didn't know people could yell like that and not lose a lung. I only hope they do as well at the games this year. Goodness knows, we need people who aren't afraid their singing voices will be ruined, even if they can't sing.
Sherry Peters had charge of them, and you know he's always good. But I was surprised when David Shantz came out on the platform. I had no idea that he was interested in cheer leading. And, believe me, he's right there.
Someone told me there was to be another meeting soon, but I don't know just when. I hope it is soon—and that you'll go with me, because I've an awful yen for cheering—in a crowd.

Yours for Ursinus,
AN OBSERVING
UPPERCLASSMAN.

Rev. Morris D. Slifer, '26, pastor of Pennsburg charge, recently remodeled and rededicated his church. Dr. Elmer E. S. Johnson, professor of church history in Hartford Theological Seminary, Connecticut, was present and preached the sermon.

Another Ursinus man connected with the Fisk Tire Co., is Earl Bracklen '28, who is Asst. Manager at Fort Worth, Texas.

Rev. Edmund P. Welker, '26, was recently elected the pastor of The Pleasant Unity charge in Clarion classis.

The Theatre

To save the Ursinus lovers of drama, etc., the necessity of making fruitless trips to Norristown and Philadelphia in search of amusement, the Weekly will present announcements of plays and pictures to be given during the week.

NORRISTOWN
Westmar—Patsy Ruth Miller in "The Fall of Eve." Comedy, All Talking Picture.
Grand—Norma Shearer in "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney."
Garrick—Janet Gaynor in "4 Devils."
PHILADELPHIA
Talking Pictures
Stanton—Ruth Chatterton in "Madame X."
Forum—"Trial of Mary Dugan."
Mastbaum—Billie Dove, "Her Private Life."
Fox Locust—Victor McLaglen and Edmund Lowe, "The Cock-eyed World."
Boyd—"Gold Diggers of Broadway."
Aldine—"Hollywood Revue."
Karlton—Vilma Banky in "This Is Heaven."
State—William Powell "The Canary Murder Case."
Stanley—Marx Brothers "The Cocoanuts."

Jeanette Strauss '29, is teaching in a grammar school in Upper Darby, Penna.

John Hartman, '29, is teaching History and Social Sciences in the Royersford High School.

The following graduates of Ursinus are enrolled and pursuing their theological course at the Eastern Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Penna.; Senior class—A. Augustus Welsh '26, Scott Brenner '26 and Clare E. Blum '26. Middlers—G. Howard Koons '28 and Harvey M. Light, ex-'27. Junior class—Harvey M. Lytle '29; Malcolm E. Barr '29, Chester Brachman '26 and Paul Schmoeyer ex-'29.

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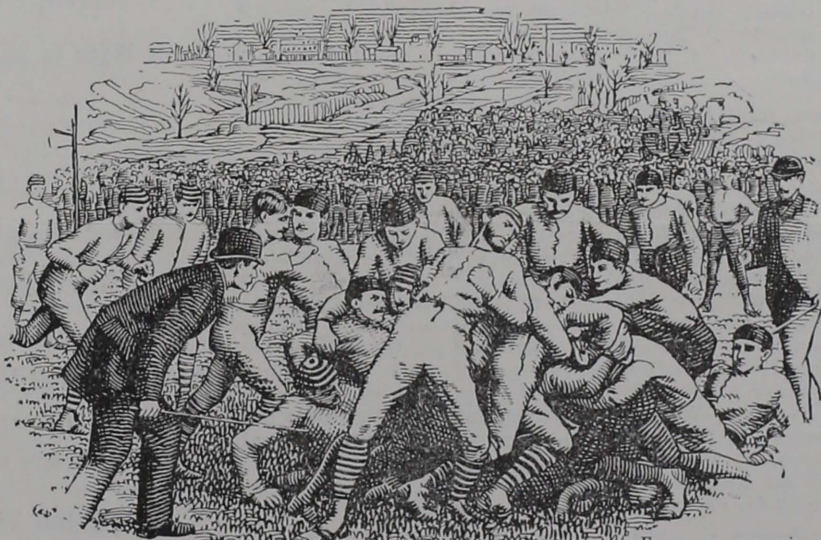
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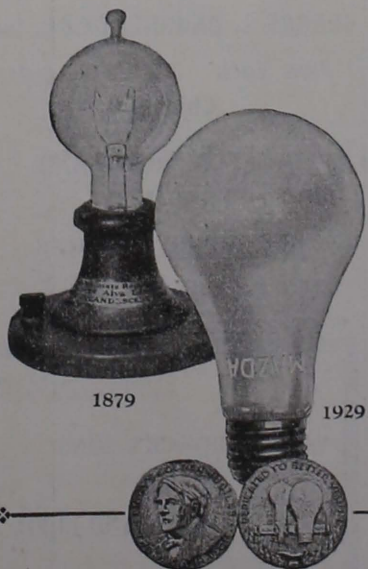
From an engraving of
the time in Harper's
Weekly

Autumn of '79

WHILE Yale and Princeton were battling to a tie at Hoboken, New Jersey, a small group of scientists, directed by Thomas A. Edison, was busy at Menlo Park, only a few miles away. On October 21, their work resulted in the first practical incandescent lamp.

Few realized what fifty years would mean to both electric lighting and football. The handful who watched Yale and Princeton then has grown to tens of thousands to-day. And the lamp that glowed for forty hours in Edison's little laboratory made possible to-day's billions of candle power of electric light. In honor of the pioneer achievement, and of lighting progress, the nation this year observes Light's Golden Jubilee.

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