

(Voice of the Student Body)

OBSERVATION POST

XXXII — No. 5

UNDERGRADUATE NEWSPAPER OF CITY COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1962

Homework...

Not enough homework? Come to Observation Post candidate's sessions. Assignments in news, features, and sports writing are liberally handed out. Under the able tutelage of our Managing Editor, Candidates are molded into the very stuff that Editors-in-Chief are made of. Be in Room 301 Downer at 12:30 PM tomorrow before registration closes.

Senate Repeals NDEA Oath; Sent to House for Approval

By VIVIAN NEUMANN

The US Senate voted last Thursday to repeal the Communist disclaimer affidavit of a Federal loan program in which the College participates.

The clause is part of the four-year-old National Defense Education Act and the National Science Foundation scholarship program. Repeal must now be approved by the House of Representatives. The loan applicant is now required to swear that he "does not belong to, and is not a member of, the Communist Party. The applicant in its action retained a loyalty oath and included a provision making it unlawful for a Communist to apply for Federal aid."

The bill was originally introduced in many schools, including Harvard, Yale, Oberlin, Amherst, Princeton withdrew from the program as a protest against the oath.

The disputed disclaimer affidavit was also the subject of an unsuccessful referendum included in the Fall, 1959 SG elections; it requested that the College withdraw from the program.

Press Abroad Hits Alleged Bias Here

The controversy surrounding the alleged bias within the College's Romance Language Department has received substantial play in the Hispanic press here and abroad recently.

Spanish members of the department as well as several Puerto Rican community organizations alleged last spring that the French section of the department dominates it and discriminates against them.

Mississippi Court Defiance Scored By Speakers at CORE Rally Here

By TIM BROWN

Over 250 students crowded into the Grand Ballroom Monday afternoon to hear speakers from the College and from the Congress of Racial Equality in support of James Meredith's entry into the previously all-white University of Mississippi.

At the rally, marked by television and radio coverage, four speakers unanimously attacked the defiant actions of segregationists in the state and lauded Meredith's attempts to enter the University.

"There is something vile... contemptible... wrong going on in Mississippi," SG President Ted Brown declared.

Brown cited recent Student Council resolutions in favor of Free Higher Education regardless of a student's "economic status, race, religion, or creed." "What extinguishes the freedom of one

does that for every other," Brown continued.

President Buell G. Gallagher termed the rally a "moment for sober words, soberly spoken," and declared that "the one thing that can be said with certainty about

order, "so that the shame of Mississippi may be erased and she may join the Union of self-respecting states."

"One man with God makes a majority," President Gallagher concluded.



Speakers address the College's CORE rally in support of James Meredith (left to right Pres. Buell G. Gallagher, Mr. Stanley Feingold, SG President Ted Brown).

Mississippi is that law and order and the Constitution of the United States will prevail."

He said that students of Mississippi should "respond" to President Kennedy's appeal for law and

Speaking primarily on the constitutional problems posed by the situation, Mr. Stanley Feingold (Political Science) categorized events there as "the greatest crisis" (Continued On Page 3)

Dean Gottschall Attains 50th Year At College

By BARBARA SCHWARTZBAUM

This is the first article in a series on the College's Deans. On the day Arthur Kornberg received the Nobel Prize for his work in Bio-Chemistry, he called the College to ask if Morton Gottschall was still here. "I owe so much of my life to him," Kornberg said of the man who had urged him to become a doctor.

Kornberg was just one of the generations of students at the College who for over half a

joined the College. After completing high school, the Dean walked the distance from Harris to Main Hall and entered the College as a Freshman. He graduated four years later at the

ment as well as several Puerto Rican community organizations alleged last spring that the French section of the department dominates it and discriminates against them.

During the Summer, *La Prensa* of New York carried a four column lead story listing the accusations of bias made by members of the College Community and neighborhood.

In addition, the paper published two editorials on the subject. The one entitled "Spanish, The Ugly Duckling," condemned the alleged fact that the department at the time included no full Professor of Spanish. (Continued On Page 3)

SC to Consider Mississippi Bill

A resolution deploring the "situation in and around the University of Mississippi" with respect to the admission of James Meredith will be considered by Student Council this evening.

The motion calls for the Student Government President there to urge students on the campus who support the enrollment of Meredith to "exercise their right of academic freedom and to voice their opinion" on the issue.

Other planned action of Council this evening will include consideration of anti-tuition activities for this term.

The proposed city-wide drive will be aimed at injecting the tuition question into the elections this fall so as to choose State Assemblymen and Senators who will restore the free tuition mandate to the State Education Law.

—Nelson

New City-Wide Drive Is Set; Aims to Insure Free Tuition

Six City University Student Governments have begun a city-wide drive for restoration of the free tuition mandate to the State Education Law.

"We aim to try to arouse grass-root support among parents of high school children," SG President Ted Brown declared Monday. "We want them to realize that they need free higher education for their children."

The program will inform the parents of the positions on the

The drive calls for a series of talks in support of free higher education at local Parent-Teacher Association meetings. Representatives from the uptown College will speak throughout all of Manhattan north of 106 Street and the southern portion of the Bronx.

The speakers for the project have been recruited from Student Government and the Debating Society.

In preparation for the speaking engagements, the participants in the program "will ask each other embarrassing questions about tuition," according to Brown.

The group now has one definite commitment, at a Bronx high school. After other high schools have been covered, the speakers will canvass junior high schools and elementary schools.

The idea for the drive was conceived by Brown, and accepted by the other SG Presidents at a meeting in July.

Plans for the future, according to Brown, call for meetings with labor unions and other civic groups.



Dean Morton Gottschall—The Years of Change



have expressed their gratitude to the small quiet Dean they call City College. Dean Gottschall has been Dean of Arts and Science since 1951. He is now completing his fifth year here. He first climbed the stairs which surround the school building years ago. As a school boy, he dressed in knickers, he walked his way to Townsend Harborside School which ad-

age of eighteen with the College's second highest academic record. Then as now the campus was marked by construction, only the new building was Shepard Hall. "My Freshman class was the first group of students to have classes in Shepard's modern interior," the Dean recalled Monday. Joining the College's staff in 1913 as a history instructor, Dr. (Continued On Page 3)



Ted Brown
Plan Now Reality

issue taken by their candidates for state senate and assembly. In this way, he said, he hopes "to make the election meaningful for them."

OBSERVATION POST

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The Editorial Policy of Observation Post is determined by a majority vote of the Editorial Board consisting of the Managing Board and Bob Nelson, Vivian Neumann, and David Rothchild.



Plaudits

Knocks rather than kudos are the usual meat of a newspaper's editorial page. We wish they weren't. Today we are faced with a happy situation.

We applaud the Senators who voted Friday to strike the Communist disclaimer affidavit from the National Defense Education Act's loan program and hope the members of the House will do as well. Our applause, however, would bring down the rafters had the Senate also struck out the Act's loyalty oath provision.

The arguments against the affidavit have often been raised. Apparently saturation is beginning to have its effect. So saturate we must. . .

The disclaimer affidavit is but one example of the profusion of oaths which Congress is peculiarly addicted to writing into law, the very character of which violate the spirit of free academic inquiry. A remnant of the McCarthy era, these clauses detract from the utilization of the university as an open forum by placing certain ideas beyond the bounds of discussion.

Laws of this nature cannot help but make students of dissenting views suspect and, we do not doubt, quiet. It is not necessary to go back too many years here at the College to remember political science classrooms, where only "safe" opinions were expressed, or to recall the time in the early fifties when only one political club was left on campus.

The Senators' action is a recognition that times are perhaps at last beginning to change. We hope it is a harbinger of the repeal of similarly restrictive legislation.

We applaud the start of a city-wide drive to restore the free tuition mandate to the State Education Law. The idea was instituted by the City University Student Government Presidents and is the particular brain-child of Ted Brown. It has been long in coming, we await it with eager anticipation.

Lobbying in the State Legislature at Albany has been proved ineffective, and this idea at least presents a fresh plan of attack. The SG Presidents have now sectioned the City among the City University schools. Representatives from each will speak on free higher education at PTA meetings, and will educate the voters to the relevant stands taken by prospective state senators and assemblymen. We wish them success, they have a long arduous task ahead.

We applaud the strong showing of student sentiment here in favor of James Meredith's entrance into the previously all-white University of Mississippi. Despite little advance publicity, the Monday CORE rally was favored with a large and responsive turnout. President Gallagher, Mr. Feingold, and Ted Brown are for integration, the Constitution, and the Union; the students there were for integration, the Constitution, and the Union; so are we. Perhaps "Ole Miss" has something to learn.

Interviews . . .

Observation Post will hold endorsement interviews for all candidates seeking to fill Student Council vacancies. They will take place tomorrow, from 12-2 PM, and from 4-6 PM. Please make appointments in Room 336 Finley.

LETTERS

CORRECTIONS

Dear Editor,

I would be grateful if the following corrections could be inserted in your paper re my recent speech before the Society for Criticism and Discussion (OP v. 32, 3; 9/25/62):

1. Your reporter stated that I described Austrian neutrality as being based on the Peace Treaty with Austria.

He confused this with my description of the internationally recognized neutrality of Switzerland dating back to the Peace of Westphalia. The Peace Treaty with Austria of 1955 does not include any specification that "Austria take no position in the cold war." The neutrality clause was contained in a Memorandum drawn up during the Moscow negotiations preceding the Austrian Peace Treaty, dated April 15, 1955. This memorandum is not a part of the formal peace treaty. The Austrian Parliament later on confirmed Austrian neutrality on the Swiss model, and incorporated it in a law (October 26, 1955).

2. The statement that "security alliances had been only of a supra-national nature" has no historical or any other meaning. If the reporter meant to say that "only security alliances had (in the pre-modern period) a supra-national character" he would make sense but still misquote me. I had pointed out the tradition of internationalism characteristic of the behavior of war-time alliances.

3. I had not said that Switzerland is "inalterably opposed to participating in any form of international organization." Switzerland does participate in a number of functional organizations (UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, FAO etc.). My statement referred to the problem of political confederation.

4. I sympathize with your reporter, and understand his difficulties in following a concentrated and fast-moving discourse on a complicated topic. I must state, however, that the OP report on my lecture was less than successful in picking out the main trend of the argument, surely a mark of good journalism. Better luck next time!

Herbert Strauss
Assistant Professor
Dept. of History

Ethics . . .

Professor K. D. Irani (Philosophy) will address the Society for Criticism and Discussion tomorrow at 12:30 PM in Room 111 Mott. His talk will be entitled "The Ethics of Research."

TEPS

ARE

TOPS

Club Notes

All clubs will meet tomorrow at 12:30 PM unless otherwise noted.

AIME

Will hold elections and discuss its program for the term in Room 305 Shepard at 12 Noon.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Will meet in Room 125 Shepard at 12:15 PM.

AICHE

Presents Professor Ronald C. Kowalski (Chemistry) speaking on "Visco-Elastic Properties of Molten Polymers," in Room 103 Harris.

AMERICAN ROCKET SOCIETY

Will show three films: "Missile from the Sea," "The Able Star," and "Titan Launch," in Room 303, Cohen Library. All interested students are invited.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Meets in Room 16 Shepard at 12:15 PM. Plans will be made for a series of lectures on astronomical topics by the Society's members.

BASKERVILLE CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Holds a business meeting in Doremus Hall. Attendance is mandatory for all members.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Presents Dr. M. Hamburger of the Albert Einstein Medical Center speaking on "Maturation of the Nerve Cell," in Room 306 Shepard.

CADUCEUS SOCIETY

Will present Grace Dowling, R.N. who will speak about the role of the nurse in modern medicine in Room 315 Shepard. A motion picture will be shown.

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Will present Yoga expert Saul Kurtz in Room 121 Finley.

LE CERCLE FRANCAIS DU JOUR

Presente deux films: "Le Corbusier" et "La Comedie Populaire avant de Moliere," dans la salle 106 Wagner.

CLUB IBEROAMERICANO

Will present medals for excellence in Spanish and Hispanic Studies to outstanding language students, in Room 217 Finley. Refreshments will be served.

DER DEUTSCHE KLUB

Presents Professor Alfred Anger (German) speaking on Goethe's play "Hermann und Dorothea" in Room 311 Mott. All officers will please be present.

ECONOMICS SOCIETY

Presents Mr. Arnold Weinstein of the Henry George School speaking on "The Laws of Property and Inheritance" in Room 107 Wagner.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Meets in Room 239 Goldmark at 12:15

PM to discuss concert and party. All those interested are invited to a field trips will be discussed.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Meets in Room 307 Shepard. Upcoming field trips will be discussed.

HOUSE PLAN ASSOCIATION

Meets from 12-2 PM. Anyone wishing to join a house or form a new house to Room 317 Finley.

INTER FRATERNITY COUNCIL

Presents an all-fraternity open house in Bittenweiser Lounge at 12:15 PM. A special film on fraternity life will be shown at 12:15 and 1:15 PM in Law Lounge. All freshmen are invited to attend and meet representatives of the fraternities.

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Will meet in Room 345 Finley.

MATH MAGAZINE

Organizational meeting for anyone interested in chartering a magazine devoted to mathematics. Please come to Room Shepard at 12 Noon promptly.

MATHEMATICS SOCIETY

Presents Professor F. Supnick (Mathematics) lecturing on "A New Approach to the Limit Concept," in Room Harris.

NAACP

Presents a forum on "The James D. Case" in Room 202 Wagner.

NEWMAN CLUB

Presents John Keating speaking on "Ecumenical Council—Its Inner Meaning."

RAILROAD CLUB

Meets in Room 301 Cohen Library to see NBC White Paper "Railroads of the Line."

SEMPER FI

Will hold an organizational meeting in Room 309 Harris at 12 Noon. All members past, present and future are invited to attend.

UKRAINIAN STUDENT SOCIETY

Will meet in Room 312 Mott. All members asked to appear for important discussion.

YIDDISH CLUB

Invites all students interested in Yiddish language and culture to its meeting in Room 305 Finley. There will be a production by Professor Susskind (man), followed by a session of Yiddish folk singing. There will also be a reading of selected Yiddish short stories.

YOUNG CONSERVATIVE CLUB

Important organizational meeting in Room 310 Harris.

YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB

Holds general membership meeting in Room 04 Wagner.

Meet the girls wearing
the Gold Butterfly

Come to the BETA LAMBA PHI

RUSH

Thursday, October 4, 1962

ROOM 350

12:30

PUT A FEATHER IN YOUR CAP AT THE
PHI TAU ALPHA SORORITY

OPEN RUSH

October 4, from 12-2 P.M.

Room 424 - FINLEY

thurs, oct 4

f 348 1

ard...

Engineering and Architecture students interested in applying for Charles A. Marlies Memorial Award for school service should go to Mrs. Herring in Room 201 Goethals on or before October 10. The award carries a cash prize of \$50 as well as a certificate.

Gottschall...

Continued From Page 1)
Gottschall was appointed registrar in 1919, and rose rapidly to become one of the youngest, longest serving, and most respected administrators in the school's history. While registrar, Dean Gottschall's wife recalls, "an abandoned student would be given a last chance, 'a last chance' an absolutely last chance" through his efforts. "And most of all, made good" she added.

During his many years here the Dean has also taken an active part in the College's non-academic life, served at various times as Beta Kappa president, City College Alumni president and an organizer of House Plan.

Known for his organizational and scholastic ability the Dean, according to his colleagues, also has a reputation for being "an emic saint."

"I have never seen him lose his temper, raise his voice or forget a relevant fact," Dean Samuel

Middlebrook said of Gottschall Monday. Both Dr. Gottschall's patience and memory are legendary at the college and he recalls students taking bets on whether he would remember their names.

Now only three years away from compulsory retirement at seventy Dr. Gottschall says he's "not at all tired of life at the college" and definitely is in no hurry to leave the home in which all of his adult life was spent.

Controversy...

(Continued From Page 1)

Spanish origin, and only one Associate Professor. It also charged that President Gallagher had expressed disdain for the motives of the Committee originating the complaint.

On August 16, the "ESE" news service carried a similar story to a wide segment of the Spanish-speaking press. The material has appeared in ABC, a newspaper with largest circulation in Madrid, Spain.

Gallagher Decries 'Ole Miss' Riots

(Continued From Page 1)

of United States' authority since the Civil War."

"The paramount necessity is to see to it that the state of Mississippi recognizes Federal law," he continued, saying that the maintenance of civil rights principles "must take place in accordance with the legal process."

In his remarks, Mr. Feingold maintained that the preservation of the Union was of first importance and had prevalence over all other questions. "If Mississippi does not comply [with court orders], the United States isn't."

Dr. Gallagher later concurred on the primacy of the Union's preservation.

Riots and disorder have occurred



Mr. Stanley Feingold

"Greatest Crisis"

red in Oxford, Mississippi in the past few days as a result of integration attempts there. By Monday evening three persons were killed and seventy-five had been injured.

Robert Gore, Assistant Public Relations Director of CORE charged that "men lie dead because of a tactical error of the Federal government." He implied that the Marshals dispatched to the scene had been insufficient in strength to maintain order.

Gore also outlined a number of actions he said could be taken by students here, including education and talks with neighbors and congressmen.

"We must produce a Federal deed as well as a Federal creed," Gore concluded.

NDEA...

(Continued From Page 1)

from the loan program. The issue became the most important one during that campaign.

In the December 15, 1959 pre-election issue of *Observation Post*, President Buell G. Gallagher said that "for a loyal person... [such oaths] are unnecessary; for a disloyal person they are ineffective; and to both they are an insult."

Dr. Gallagher remarked on Monday that he was still opposed to the disclaimer oath. In 1959 he said that he would consider the SG referendum satisfactory, only if a distinction were made between the non-Communist affidavit and an oath in the program stating that the applicant supports the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Senior Class of Columbia College invites all C.C.N.Y. students and their girlfriends to

KICK-OFF DANCE

October 5, 8 P.M.

Booth Hall

5th Street and Broadway
near 7th Avenue (IRT)

The CADUCEUS SOCIETY,

A Society for students interested in Medicine, Dentistry, and their related fields, will hold its SEMI-ANNUAL

INTRODUCTORY TEA

on October 5th

in Shepard 502 at 7:30 P.M. All those interested in membership should attend. Refreshments will be served

OPEN LETTER TO FRESHMEN

Gentlemen:

Welcome to City College, where in a few short months you too will accept the time-honored truism that the college years are the happiest that life can offer. These years will also be the most demanding. Goals must be set, and decisions made — decisions having an unalterable effect upon your later lives.

Shortly, you will come to realize something else, as well: the most successful student is not the one who merely maintains satisfactory grades, but the one whose academic development is balanced by a corresponding social growth. Aside from intrinsic personal worth, such a measured program is also weighed heavily in the field of employment.

Recognizing this, one asks himself. Which organization can offer me the most, not only scholastically, but socially as well? May we suggest AEPI?

ALPHA EPSILON Pi, the most successful fraternity on the City College Campus, is respected by both students and faculty alike. It participates ardently in all phases of College life: social, scholastic, athletic, governmental, and service. Underlying all our accomplishments is the basic element of Fraternism — it will help you to develop from high school senior into a mature college man.

Fraternally,

AEPI

Speak to the members wearing the yellow carnation. They are sponsoring the "Gentleman's Soiree." on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 8:30 P.M.

Woodrow Wilson...

Professor R. F. Arragon, National Representative of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program, will explain application procedure for the \$2000 a year grant, in Room 200 Shepard at 1 PM tomorrow. Prof. Arragon will also be available for consultation between 10 and 12 Noon in the Administration Building and directly after the 1 PM meeting.

THE

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Invites all Freshman

to an

IFC OPEN RUSH

Thursday, October 4 12-2

IN BUTTENWEISER LOUNGE

A FILM DEPICTING FRATERNITY LIFE WILL BE SHOWN IN LEWISOHN LOUNGE AT 12:15 AND 1:15

ALL ARE WELCOME

TEPS

ARE

TOPS

HOUSE PLANS

Need a room for a party—Rent apt. by day or eve. Near College and reasonable. Call ANDY WA 3-8061

SEE THE WORST AT C.C.N.Y.

SEMI-ANNUAL FALL SMOKER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 - 8:30 PM

DELTA OMEGA FRATERNITY

711 BRIGHTON BEACH AVE., BROOKLYN

BMT BRIGHTON LINE to BRIGHTON BEACH

The fellows of E.S.B. (colony I.F.C. and Beta Sigma Rho) congratulate

STU and SARAH
MILT and MARLENE
DANNY and MARY

On Their Pinning

Baseball Team Splits With Fordham; Sophomore Pitches Complete Game

By RICHIE COE

Soph Ron Mueller went the route Saturday as the College's baseball team defeat Fordham 6-4. Mike Grennan almost duplicated the feat in the second game, but five Beaver errors gave Fordham a 5-2.

This was Mueller's first start (he pitched three perfect innings in relief against Iona) and he didn't look too good in the early innings.

But Coach Al DiBernardo stuck with him despite the four runs on five hits and six walks that he gave up in the first four frames. Mueller responded by pitching hitless ball the rest of the way.

The Beavers, trailing 4-2 in early going, erupted for two runs in the sixth and two more in the seventh to put the game on ice. In the sixth Matty Shak reached on an error and scored when Richie Sol drove a long triple to deep right. Sol then scored on a wild pitch.

The Rams had a new pitcher in the seventh. But Mike Murphy did no better than his predecessor. With two outs Arson Vargebedian walked and stole second. He scored the winning run when Bart Frazzitta looped a Texas League single into short center.

Shak then smashed a grounder up the middle to put men on first and third.

At this point Murphy cracked under the strain, hitting the next two batters to drive in yet another run.

The Beavers were still playing good ball when the second game started. True the Rams scored in the bottom of the first, but the Beavers evened it up with a walk, John Reichling's single, and an error the next time they batted.

In the fourth Ram starter Freddy Feddick had walked two men

when Richie Sol smashed a two-out single through shortstop for his second RBI.

But two errors allowed the Rams to tie the score in their half of



College's Players
Win, Lose

the fourth. Vargebedian's throw pulled Bill Trust off the bag at

first allowing lead-off man Ed Reggazzi to get on.

Jack Golebizwski then singled between first and second, moving Reggazzi to third. Then Sol errored Joe Smith's grounder to short making the score 2-2.

In the fifth the Beavers found themselves facing a new pitcher, Bill Sheridan. Sheridan effectively stifled them the rest of the way striking out seven.

Sheridan also started a three-run Ram rally by leading off with a base on balls in the sixth.

Errors by Sol and Trust allowed another run before Mike Heyman came in to relieve Beaver starter Grennan. Golebizwski immediately tagged him for a single to right driving in another run. But Golebizwski took the turn at first base, and an alert play by Bill Trust put the tag on him for the final out.

But Sheridan struck out the side in the top of the seventh to wrap up a 5-2 Ram victory.

Victory . . .

Fordham	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
CCNY	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	x	6

WEBB PATROL

Invites YOU to their

SEMI-ANNUAL SMOKER

On Friday, 5 October 1962, 8 PM
at 472 West 141 Street

SMOKES, DRINKS, and FILMS

COME TO THE

TAU DELTA PHI OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, OCT. 5

8:30 P.M.

at our beautiful new house

34 E. 23 St.

New York, N.Y.

ALL WELCOME

- Which organization accounts for 40% of the IFC executive committee?
- Who was cited by C.C.N.Y. for outstanding community service?
- Who challenged the Kennedy touch football team?
- Who sponsors Jean Shepard each year?
- Who was IFC Athletic Champion of 1961?
- Who has the most fun at IFC sing?
- Who ran the Weaver Concert?
- Who ran the Playboy dance?

WHO CORDIALLY INVITES ALL INTERESTED MEN TO A RUSH SMOKER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1962 at 8:30 P.M.

★ TAU EPSILON PHI FRATERNITY

"In The Village"

7 WASHINGTON PLACE

TEPS

ARE

TOPS

PART-TIME TYPIST

Male only, 55 w.p.m. - Monday
Friday, 9-5 (flexible hours), Science
Language Majors for Medical Re-
Project of Columbia Medical Center
\$1.50 per hour. Call SW 3-4015



On Campus with
Max Shulman

(Author of "I Was a Teen-age Dwarf", "The Many
Loves of Dobie Gillis", etc.)

WRITE? YOU'RE WRONG

In the recent furor over the assassination of President McKinley, it may have escaped your notice that a nationwide study of the writing ability of American college students has just been published.

The survey reveals an astonishing fact: that when students have completed their freshman year and are no longer required to take English, their writing skill progressively declines until we come to the fantastic situation where *graduating seniors actually are poorer writers of English than incoming freshmen!*

Many theories have been offered to account for this incredible fact. Some say that seniors know less English than freshmen because all seniors major in French. This is not true. No more than 94 percent of seniors major in French. How about the other six percent?

Well sir, of the other six percent, half—or three percent—take physics, and it is not hard to understand how these poor souls grow rusty in English when all they ever say is "E equals MC squared."

Of the remaining three percent, two-thirds—or two percent—major in whaling, and their English too grows feeble with disuse. Whalers, as we all know, do not speak at all except to shout, "Thar she blows!" maybe twice a year.

Of the one percent remaining, it cannot be fairly said that they are poor writers. The fact is, we don't know what kind of writers they are. Why not? Because they never write. And why don't they ever write? Because this remaining one percent of American college students are enrolled at the University of Alaska, and never take their mittens off.

(Incidentally, I received quite a surprise upon first visiting Alaska two years ago when I was invited to Juneau to crown the Queen of the Annual Date Palm Festival. Frankly I ex-



pected to find a surly and morose populace. After all, going through life with your mittens on all the time is hardly calculated to make you merry as a cricket. Not only can't you write, but you miss out on all kinds of other fun things—like three card monte, making shadow pictures on the wall, and lint picking. However, to my astonishment, I discovered Alaskans to be a hale and gregarious group, mittens notwithstanding, and I soon found out why: because mittens notwithstanding, they could still smoke Marlboro Cigarettes, still enjoy that rich mellow flavor, that fine, clean Selectrate filter, that truly soft soft pack, that truly flip-top flip-top box—and that, friends, will make anybody happy, mittens notwithstanding. In fact, Alaskans are the happiest people I have ever met in the whole United States—except, of course, for the Alaskan vendors of Marlboro Cigarettes, who have not been paid in many years—indeed, never—because how can anybody dig out coins to pay for cigarettes when he is wearing mittens?)

But I digress. What are we going to do about this deplorable condition where college students, having completed Freshman English, become steadily less proficient in the use of the language? The answer is simple. We will make them take Freshman English all through college. In fact, we won't let them take anything else! This solution, besides producing a nation of graceful writers, will also solve another harrowing problem: where to park on campus. If everybody takes nothing but Freshman English, we can tear down all the schools of law, medicine, engineering, and whaling, and turn them into parking lots. Can't we?

© 1962 Max Shulman

The makers of Marlboro, who sponsor this column, plead guilty to being among those Americans whose writing skill is not all it might be. However, we like to think that as tobaccoists we know a thing or two. Won't you try us and see if you agree?