In the Background

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Abstract

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. . . of fall quarter, 1947. Beautiful Indian summer until cold snow in November. Several rainy weekends, notably on Homecoming days.

WE CROWDED the campus with 9,996 students, 3,878 of us in engineering. One hundred fifty-three came from 23 different foreign nations. One-third of us lived in the expanding town of Pammel Court.

WE WATCHED the building of the Atomic Institute, completion of the 14 temporary buildings for classroom and dormitory space, the Thirteenth street bridge addition, and the new bright lights installed in the library.

WE TALKED ABOUT the big-name bands versus the local dance bands. The long Thanksgiving vacation. The weekly night club started in the Union. The possibility of a third world war. The GI checks coming finally in the mail. The sput and spurt of spirit in pep rallies. The football team winning technically but losing statistically against Oklahoma. The 12:30 Saturday nights. The meatless Tuesday and poultryless Thursdays. The formal dances.

WE LISTENED TO Norman Cousins from the Saturday Review of Literature urging “Don’t Resign from the Human Race.” Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd describing the South Pole explorations. John Mason Brown, the associate editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, advising us on “Seeing Things.” Marquis Childs, journalist and columnist. Dr. Sherwood Eddy, religious leader. Vernon Nash, speaking on “Alternative to Anarchy.”


WE HEARD the Morton Gould concert; and Paul Ulanowsky, New York pianist; Handel’s “Messiah” in December sung by the Iowa State Festival Choir; and the college symphony orchestra concert.

WE READ about the new magazine to be published by students in the Division of Science. The Iowa State Daily Student became the Iowa State Daily, with national news on the front page.

WE ATTENDED COFFEE FORUMS to hear subjects discussed such as Russia, a Menace or a Promise? Are We Meeting the Housing Problem? Can the Taft-Hartley Act Work? Does the United States Need a Third Party? The Future of the Marshall Plan. Are Women Living up to Responsibilities in Public Affairs? and Is the Communist Purge in America Justified?
WE WENT to BOOKS and COKES to hear the following books reviewed:

"The Yearbook of '47" Lilbert & Weiser—Norman Lilbert
"Green Mansions" W. H. Hudson—Dycie Stough
"Arch of Triumph" Eric M. Remarque—Pat Minear
"Importance of Living" Lin Yutang—Emma Dai Monte
"Inside U.S.A." John Gunther—Don Watson
"Miracle of the Bells" Russell Janney—Barbara Young
"Color Blind" Margaret Halsey—John Smith
"Tales of the South Pacific" James A. Mitchner—Martha Cooper
"Harvey" Marx Chase—Terry Kallugan
"Kingsblood Royal" Sinclair Lewis—Becky Stone

Fall was the quarter when we danced to Tex Beneke and Stan Kenton, stood in long lines for cokes and coffee, contributed to the Friendship Train, sympathized with the student-husbands who waited hours to get on the housing list, congratulated the Division of Home Economics on their 75th anniversary, worried about rumors of a possible depression to hit soon, spent a short fall quarter. Twelve weeks. Seventy days of classwork.

... Forming the Campus Sketch

Announcing...

the Prize Winners in the Sketch Freshman Writing Contest

Poetry:
First prize. Burton C. Collier, "The Things that Are."
Second prize. Elinor Chase, "Song."

Prose:
First prize. Margaret Wallace, "Twelve Years and a Doctor" which appeared in SKETCH last spring.
Second prize. Jack L. Evans, "Vision with a Black Shawl" which will be published in SKETCH, March, 1948.

Entries were Judged by Prof. Helen C. White, University of Wisconsin.

Winners of the Sketch Subscription contest:
First: Alpha Delta Pi Pledges
Second: Lyon Hall