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## Connecticut College News Vol. 12 No. 15

Connecticut College

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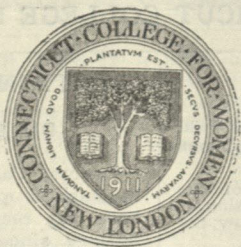
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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.





## Current Events

### Musical Prodigy

If the praise of Paris critics is any indication, the world has another musical prodigy who is likely to become one of the world's great musicians. Yehudi Menuhin, ten year old violinist, playing classical music before a Paris audience, moved it to tears. He was compared to Mozart.

### Destructive Gale

The wind that swept violently over C. C. hilltop last Saturday and Sunday was a sample of the seventy-mile gale that left a trail of destruction over the North Atlantic coast, hurling ships upon the rocks, destroying an immense amount of shore property, engulfing hapless airplanes, and causing loss of life.

### Floating University

The experimental "floating university" which began last September for and eight-month cruise, is now at Naples. However, the "floating university" will cease to be co-ed after this trip.

### Brevity In Book Reviews

Dr. Marinetti, the Italian futurist poet, believes that the present type of book reviews found in newspapers does not meet the modern demand for speed and exactitude. He suggests an analytical diagram giving in chart form the answers to seven questions: for a book, these would be: author, structure, vital material, innovations, style, publisher, "chatter". This method is supposed to give accuracy, brevity, clarity.

### Washington

President Coolidge's speech, given on the day famed as the birthday of the first president, was heard literally over the entire world; millions of radio fans tuned in on the speech. He emphasized the splendid and noble qualities of Washington rather than the petty, although perhaps true, trifles that have recently been given so much publicity.

## YOUNGEST GRADUATES HAVE HILARIOUS BANQUET

Early on Saturday evening, February 19th, Lighthouse Inn was the scene of a banquet held by the class of 1926. It was in charge of Margaret Ebsen, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee. The banquet hall was tastefully decorated with flowers. The guests found their places by means of unique place cards of red and white, depicting a signpost against the sun, showing the way to Connecticut. The menu was contained inside. They were the product of Nodelyn Smith's originality. In each chair were paper caps, and after the main course balloons and snapper favors were passed, giving a festive air to the occasion.

Between courses, there was dancing in the main room. One feature of the entertainment was a specialty dance by Helen Farnsworth Schneidewind and Katherine King.

Hazel Osborn acted the part of toastmistress admirably. A word from the husbands was brought to the class by Helen Farnsworth Schneidewind and Grace Parker Schumpert. A radio message was read to the class from

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## Dr. Gilkey Stresses Will and Spiritual Aid

The speaker at Vespers Sunday afternoon was Dr. Gordon Gilkey of the South Congregational Church of Springfield, Massachusetts. The theme for his sermon, he announced was suggested to him by the story of a young man who, in spite of his possibilities, had made a tragic wreck of his career. He had lacked self-control and was ruined by drink. "God gave him a wonderful constitution, but he had raised Cain with his amendments." Theodore Roosevelt, as an opposite example, is credited with great power; he himself admitted that he possessed only average intelligence and a weak physical equipment. But he did extraordinary things by using wisely what equipment he had, building a fine superstructure in spite of his constitution.

At this time many people are raising the question of inheritance, referring to the foundations laid by their ancestors. Too often they use heredity as an excuse for their lack of success. The problem which presents itself is that they must go back in their line of ancestors and chose which side of inheritance they wish to strengthen, the good or the bad. The high ideals of the past are the ones to be developed and strengthened, and those which are inferior should be surrendered. There is much talk of the "necessity of self-expression," but this is merely a question of which side of nature is to be stressed.

Another point emphasized was that the habits of the child are carried over into youth and determine the future behavior of the man. This is in some degree true, but is no excuse for failure. The behavior patterns of the child which are most beneficial are the ones to be carried on through life. Certain patterns should be obliterated. There are always helpful guides along the way—friends, teachers, and best of all—the providential ordering of circumstances. If they do their best, God will help them. "To everyone that knocketh, the door to God's help and care will be flung open wide."

## ENGLISH EDITOR TO DISCUSS THE REBIRTH OF SOCIETY

On Tuesday, March 1, Samuel Kerkham Ratcliffe, an English publicist, editor and lecturer, will address convocation. Mr. Ratcliffe comes back to the United States from the very center of British public life for his thirteenth lecture season. Since last spring he has been active in the newspaper world of London, writing for the leading organs of public opinion, as the "Observer," the "New Statesman" and the "Contemporary Review." He has been working in close touch with the most influential men of England. Mr. Ratcliffe has traveled extensively, having spent several years studying conditions in India. His subject is to be "The Rebirth of Society" under which title he will discuss science, faith and progress and will consider the question, "Is civilization on the mend?" John Graham Brooks of Harvard says, "I can

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## Underclassmen Present Plays of Other World

Friday evening, February 18, the two lower classes presented the plays they had entered in the interclass competition. It was a curious commentary on the college mind that both plays dealt with the dead. The Sophomore play, presented first, was called "Shades of Night" and dealt with the annual return of two ghosts to the scene of their great moment. The unusual character of the play, and the clever satirical view in which it was written made it most interesting. There was a failure on the part of the actors to throw themselves into their parts and submerge their own personalities sufficiently, save in the case of the lady ghost who gave a delicate performance. The costuming and scenery of the play were skilfully done.

The Freshmen were at a disadvantage at the outset with their play, because the audience had had sufficient about the dead for one evening at the conclusion of the Sophomore play. The Freshmen play, "Possession," dealt with the dead in their new abode, heaven or hell, as you will. It was a difficult play for college presentation since the characters were all older people; but the Freshmen did well with it, in consideration of the difficulties they naturally encountered. It is unfortunate that they chose a play so hard to handle. Their ability exceeded the quality of their play.

## PRESIDENT'S PARTY IS THROGGED WITH GUESTS

Even the elements appeared to be trying their very best to make the Alumnae feel just as natural and as much at home as possible! But the biting wind and the cutting snow did not dampen the festive spirit of the Alumnae and C C ites in the least, for Knowlton Salon was the scene of a gay and colorful party Saturday night. It was the annual Washington's Birthday party given by President and Mrs. Marshall.

There were several features of entertainment during the evening which were greatly enjoyed by everyone. The first specialty number was a Spanish dance by Hildergarde Harper '30. Next, Mary Slayter '29, and Catherine Congdon '29, danced the Minuet. Miss Harper '30, again favored, with a Polish dance. Gwendolyn Thomen '30, sang several songs and Mildred Beardslee '27, played several numbers on the piano.

During the various intermissions refreshments of punch, vanilla and cherry ice, and cakes were served by the Seniors. Toward the end of the evening the classes gathered around the piano and sang the college favorites. During the evening many groups could be seen talking together in the corners, renewing old friendships and talking over all the changes which had come since they had graduated. All evening there was excellent music for dancing. It was furnished by a town orchestra. The party broke up at a late hour, and everyone went skidding across Knowlton lawn toward home.

## Returning Alumnae Find Gale Blown Campus

"Hello, how are you?" "It's great to see you again!" "Isn't it wonderful to be back?" Alumnae Week-End was certainly a success. The alumnae arrived anywhere from Friday until Saturday noon. Most of them left on Sunday, but a few were lucky enough to stay over until Monday. In order that they could all be together to talk over things far into the wee sma' hours of Sunday morning (like the good old college days), the occupants of Branford and Knowlton Houses gave their rooms over to the alumnae and sought shelter elsewhere. The dining hall of Knowlton, familiar to some, and that of Thames, familiar to all, were at their service.

Those who came Friday had the opportunity of seeing the Sophomore and Freshman competitive plays in the evening. They also had the opportunity of sleeping late Saturday morning (ah—no eight o'clocks!), with the exception of the Executive Board members for whom there was a meeting in Knowlton House at nine o'clock.

The alumnae exercised their sporting spirit at a basket-ball game with the Seniors, played off at two-fifteen in the afternoon. Grace Ward, A. A. president in 1925, was in charge of the old-timers who played remarkably well, and who succeeded in rolling up a score of 32 against the Seniors' 28.

At four o'clock, a tea in charge of Mrs. Waldo Miner (Helen Collins '20) was given for the faculty and alumnae in the faculty living-room in the library. The New London Chapter of Alumnae acted as hostess, and Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Bauer poured. It was well attended.

The 1926 banquet took place at Lighthouse Inn on Saturday evening. Later in the evening, the alumnae and the college body were the guests of President and Mrs. Marshall at a Washington's Birthday party in Knowlton ball-room. Here many old friendships were renewed, and many faces seemed so familiar that students could not realize they had really been gone.

On Sunday noon, the Executive Committee of the Alumnae Association had dinner in Knowlton House with the Student Government Cabinet. President and Mrs. Marshall and Dean Nye were present. The alumnae guests were: Alice Horrax Schell '20, President of the Alumnae Association; Marendra Prentiss '19, First Vice-President; Mary Wheeler '23, Second Vice-President; Margaret Baxter '22, Secretary; Pauline Warner '26, Publicity Manager; Julia Warner '23, and Evelyn Gray Talmage '22, Councillors; Agnes Leahy '21, Nominating Chairman; and Lois Gordon '26, Graduate Secretary.

In the afternoon the alumnae heard again President Marshall's poetry reading. From four until five the class of '26 was entertained by its sister class of '28 at a tea in Winthrop living-room. Henrietta Owens, President of the Junior class, and Elizabeth Gallup poured. Piano selections were rendered by Margaret Howard. Before leaving, the class of '26 sang to its sisters and hostesses, and the Junior class responded.

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## Connecticut College News

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### SUICIDES

The fact that there have been nine student suicides since January second has caused a stir throughout the country, due in great measure to the activities of the press which has told in great headlines of the "suicidal wave" among college students. Great educators, having been questioned by the papers have given a variety of causes—religious, psychological, and matter of fact. Dr. Bernard Iddings Bell, president of St. Stephens College who has addressed us at Vespers gives an answer tinged with his religious belief—"Knowledge and knowledge alone is almost certain to remove from man that courage which results from ignorance without substituting anything for it . . . Too much education takes away belief in love and hope the ruling forces of the universe. Those who believe in nothing become the slaves of everything. If education is to be defined as the accommodation of man to his environment, then it is more a curse than a blessing."

President MacCracken of Vassar stresses the need of psychiatrists on college staffs. He feels that the papers have made too much over something which is no "wave" at all, but says nevertheless that the suicides may be explained by several facts. The fact that the colleges and universities open their doors to so many thousands of young people makes it impossible to exclude all those pathologically unfit to come. The fact that they do come should be met by having increased psychiatric training and knowledge on the part of teachers and students and by having a psychiatrist on the staff of each college.

The view point of Dr. Charles A. Bennett, professor of philosophy at Yale is in answer to those who consider the "suicide wave" a result of an attitude of all college students. He says, "I firmly believe each of the cases was an individual case—the outcome of personal troubles or infirmities of which persons removed from the case cannot possibly be aware. I certainly do not believe there is any general attitude among young American students that would account for a number of deaths such as these."

### FREE SPEECH

[The Editors of the *News* do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed in this column.]

[In order to insure the validity of this column as an organ for the expression of honest opinion, the editor must know the names of contributors.]

February 20, 1927.

Dear Editor: In last week's *News* there was an open letter suggesting that we give more respectful and thoughtful attention to our visiting speakers. It seems to me that, as the old saying goes, "Charity should begin at home," we should also give those of our number a measure of that respectful attention when they are so good as to perform for us. During the rendering of several piano selections at a recent college gathering, the thoughtlessness of the audience approached the borders of rudeness. It was not merely rudeness to the performer, but to the host for whose guest she was playing. Several appreciative listeners expressed annoyance at the attitude of the audience. Does it not seem almost too uncomplimentary to us, as a college, to be guilty of such a flagrant, not to say impolite, lack of consideration?

—One of the Appreciative Listeners.

### SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Henry W. Lawrence

I watched him as he stepped down from his handsome touring car, a liveried chauffeur was ceremoniously opening the door and standing at attention. As he mounted the steps of the modern palace which served him as a country residence, his bearing and dress were nothing short of princely. I had been sitting on the spacious veranda, somewhat overawed by the surrounding magnificence, timidly awaiting the arrival of its owner and lord, Jeremiah W. Sparks, once a colleague of mine in the faculty of Blackthorne College, but risen since to be a colleague of Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and Jackie Coogan, in filmland's peerage.

"Good morning, Jerry," I ventured, acutely aware of my presumption.

"Shade of Shelley," he roared, "if it isn't Professor Glum! Well, Chief, how in hell are you? And what deeds of high adventure have been done in Blackthorne's English department since I left it?"

"Jerry," I countered, "your glittering splendor embarrasses me. You wear the raiment of a king. Your motor car is worthy of a retired bootlegger. Your summer estate once belonged to a chewing gum magnate, I am told. As head of the English department of Blackthorne College, enjoying an annual honorarium of three thousand dollars, I feel financially inadequate even to sit on your front porch; yet six short years ago you were my assistant in the indispensable public service of highly educating the coming leaders of our great country, at two thousand dollars per annum. Since then I have faithfully followed the straight path of academic respectability; while you, by almost unanimous opinion of your envious fellow-pedagogues, have become a vagabond along the highway of education. Yet you—"

"Lay off that stuff, Professor," he interrupted. "All the world knows I'm a lost soul; a mere pie-throwing comedian; and you are the highest living authority on how many times Chaucer said 'but.' You receive each year three thousand dollars in cash, and ninety-seven thousand dollars worth of esteem from the few persons whose opinions really count. I get a hundred thousand dollars in cash and the unreflecting applause of several million low-brows. Fine clothes and cars and castles, what are

### STATION CC ON HT BY S

#### DIZ BROADCASTING

Dearest Family: I am writing this in class, a quaint old custom around here. It really is a subtle form of flattery since the prof. thinks I am taking notes with unusual speed—hence interest. Every once in a while I gaze up with a rapt look in my eyes as though I were fascinated by the subject matter. I nod my head a few times in earnest agreement with whatever point is under discussion, and then start in furiously taking notes again. Is dissa system.

As I wrote before, this is Alumnae weekend and all the Branfordites had to seek shelter elsewhere. I went to Plant and enjoyed the luxury of wash basins in the room and smooth walls that weren't dangerous to knuckles, but Sunday morning when I tried to shut out the icy blasts and couldn't work the trick kind of windows, I appreciated my own little dormitory for the first time. We may not have panes enhanced by leaded glass but our windows at least listen to reason. As it was, I became one solid chunk of ice and had to be chipped off in bits. I really felt terribly sorry for the alums because they couldn't have chosen a worse weekend to come back. Ice below and wind above—a great combination with New London hills to be climbed. Of course it did get them back into the good old college atmosphere, but it must have knocked out the illusions evolved since graduation.

There was a lot to compensate, however. Friday night were two of the competitive class plays—the freshman and the sophomore. The younger classes must have been contemplating death by examinations when they chose those plays. Sorry I don't know what the official reactions are as it is always safest to agree with the critics, for when you are against the fence and charged to defend your opinions you can quote the critics as Oscar Wilde. Which is the cue for your hearers to salaam, extol your intelligence, and bless the day you were born. I can't even think of anything said by Oscar on the subject of bad acting so I will end Friday night and pass on quickly to Saturday.

In the afternoon a basketball game which I didn't see and in the evening a dance I didn't go to because even the thought of an actual orchestra did not make up for the zero weather in my estimation. I must be getting old, preferring warmth to entertainment. What a horrible thought! I'll be frivolous for a week to make up for it. Don't tell anybody, but keep my secret and don't blackmail me.

I absolutely can't think of another thing to write but I feel responsible for finishing the page so will rave on and on for a few lines more. I never say anything anyway so talking about nothing for a while won't make any difference at all. It's really great to cultivate a much ado about nothing literary style. You notice I refrain from quotation marks, not that I'm trying to put anything over on Shakespeare, but I hate them and never use them. Slight personal idiosyncrasy. And that, said she with an air of finality, is that. Much of love.

DIZ.

they? Mere attempts at consolation for the loss of my respectability. But, Professor," he went on, with a wicked grin, "the tragedy of it all is that I'm perfectly consoled; not a flicker of remorse. Never again for me on that two hundred dollars per for ten months and nothing during the starving summer. As a sporting event, that pedagog's handicap marathon with the butcher, the grocer, and the land-

(Continued on page 3, column 2)

## THE BOOK SHELF

### MANUAL OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

John Edwin Wells

Dr. John Edwin Wells, Professor of our own English Department has just published a Third Supplement to his book "A Manual of the Writing in Middle English 1050-1400." This third supplement makes the volume complete up to June, 1926. This book is not a history, but a handbook. The text seeks to record generally accepted views of scholars down to June, 1926, on all phases of interest connected with each English writing of 1050-1400. The Bibliographical Notes cover all the editions, and all articles, and complete volumes in the periodicals, the publications of learned societies, the dissertations and University prints and separate publications issued in America and abroad. The book deals with all the extent writings in English, literary or non-literary, of 1050-1400, from single lines to the most extensive pieces—in the cases of the Romances, Legends, Mystery Plays, and smaller groups, covering all pieces to the invention of printing. The Manual has 16 chapters. It offers comprehensive classification of all works; groups and discusses each piece; and gives the probable date and location, form and extent, dialect, and source or sources of the manuscripts. It also gives concise critical comments of each piece, an abstract of contents, and a complete classified bibliography for each writing, as well as for its general group or sub-group. The following were taken from different reviews of "A Manual of the Writings in Middle English."

"Far surpasses every other bibliographical aid in its field, and is absolutely indispensable to all students of English literature."

—J. M. Manly in *Modern Philology*.

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—J. S. P. Tetlock in the *American Journal of Philology*.

"The wideness and fullness of the author's own reading, the evidence on every page that no work has escaped an individual and independent judgment by the compiler, render the book peculiarly valuable to those who have no time for the original. For such, the book is more than a bibliographical manual; it is distinctly informative in an encyclopedia way."

—President MacCracken of Vassar in the *Yale Review*.

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## SABBATICAL LEAVE DR. HENRY W. LAWRENCE

(Concluded from page 2, column 2)

lord, had some kick; but it kept you too near winded to enjoy the scenery of life."

"What you say," I began," furnishes a poor introduction indeed for the business which brought me here today. The young man who succeeded you as assistant professor of English at Blackthorne College has recently resigned his position, to become manager of an automobile sales and service station, I believe. Nearly two years ago he broke the vow of celibacy, now almost a *sine qua non* for the self-supporting pedagog, and took unto himself an unendowed wife. Not content even with this luxury and distraction, he must need in due course become the father of a child. Last summer his family budget seems to have shown an almost European tendency toward deficit, necessitating a mortgage on the household furniture, meagre rations for the adult members of the family, and at last the stealthy absence from home for several weeks of the young Ph. D. himself, ostensibly to engage in researches along the line of his doctoral dissertation, but really to peddle from house to house, in a safely remote city, certain articles of aluminum ware for kitchen use. These experiences seemed to make him discontented with the academic life, and he has, unhappily, turned to the pursuit of material wealth. But you, Jerry, are now again a bachelor," I continued, "and, if I am correctly informed, neither of your two divorces requires that you pay alimony. It therefore occurred to me that possibly you would now be glad to return to the serene and simple service of the academic groves."

"Did you say 'groves,' Professor, or 'grooves?'" he inquired gaily. "No Chief, I'm past reforming. The lure of 'the great open spaces' of vagabondage has seduced this educator. The undergraduate daily theme and the class notebook no longer stir my blood and fascinate my attention. Besides, I'm just entering upon the new adventure of producing a picture of my own. When that has left me broke, maybe I'll be ready to consider your kind offer."

"Jerry," I began again, almost overwhelmed with embarrassment at what I was about to suggest, "your reply is precisely what I anticipated. In fact, I heartily commend your decision. It leads me to speak of another matter, which I trust you will regard as absolutely confidential."

"You're not planning a divorce?" he ventured.

"No sir," I replied. "But I should

prize highly your candid and expert opinion as to my probable aptitude for your profession."

"You, going into the films!" he gasped.

"Is it too absurd?" I stammered, in confusion.

"I'll say it's damned good sense," he shouted. "I always knew you had the soul of a comedian, and yours is positively the finest low-comedy face I ever glimpsed. I've got a part for you in my new play. All you'll have to do is to act just as you used to in your classroom. It'll be a scream! I'll start you at twice your present salary, and double that within a year if you make good."

"Would it be possible for me to be somewhat disguised," I inquired anxiously, "so that acquaintances would not recognize me at first, until success seemed assured?"

"Easiest thing in the world," he chuckled.

"The college has given me sabbatical leave for next year," I continued, "and I am expected to study in Europe. I could sail with my family and, after establishing them comfortably in Paris, shave off my beard and return to America. My wife would gladly cooperate in this adventure, throwing chance visitors off the scent and forwarding my correspondence. During the year you and I could ascertain quite clearly whether I can be successful in this new profession."

The famous Jeremiah W. Sparks seized me violently about the waist and danced us wildly around his spacious veranda.

Later in the same day I signed a contract with him as a film comedian at six thousand dollars for the ensuing year.

Not since I was a mere lad have I experienced such lively anticipations of adventure as I now feel in looking forward to my extraordinary sabbatical. It can hardly fail to broaden my outlook on life and make me a better teacher. Incidentally, the augmenting of my expected honorarium will go far toward liquidating certain arrears and indebtednesses that have seemed unavoidable during my more narrowly academic years. And at the end of the experiment, I can choose. Certainly this promises to be my most rewarding sabbatical year though it will doubtless be wise to maintain the secrecy regarding it that we have planned.

Y. B. GLUM, Ph. D.

—C. C. Alumnae News.

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## CALENDAR

Saturday, February 26—Mrs. Moran to lecture on conditions in Roumania.  
 Sunday, February 27—The Reverend Charles E. Spalding at Vespers.  
 Tuesday, March 1—S. X. Ratcliffe at Convocation.  
 Friday, March 4—French Plays.  
 Saturday, March 5—Informal Dance in Knowlton.

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The Typewriting Department announces the following awards given to students in beginning typewriting. These were awarded from the result of speed tests in class.

Underwood	Rate	Award
Ethel Cook '29.....	40	Bronze Medal
Katherine G. Bartlett '29.....	30	Certificate
Ethel Cook '29.....	40	"
Marie Leverone '29.....	30	"
Dorothy N. Pasnik '28.....	34	"
Virginia Shank '29.....	33	"
Mary Wilcox '27.....	33	"
Royal		
Dorothy N. Pasnik '28.....	32	Certificate
Edna Somers '28.....	33	"
Remington		
Katherine Aikens.....	26	Certificate
Phyllis Barchard '29.....	26	"
Katherine G. Bartlett '29.....	28	"
Barbara Bent '29.....	31	"
Bertha Borgzinner '27.....	32	"
Trumana Foote '28.....	26	"
Emily Hopkins '28.....	35	"
Helen Roeber '29.....	25	"
Elizabeth Sargent '29.....	28	"

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ENGLISH EDITOR TO DISCUSS  
THE REBIRTH OF SOCIETY

(Concluded from page 1, column 2)

recommend him with utmost confidence. Among the scores of lectures we have had here during the last dozen years, Mr. Ratcliffe is easily on the 'narrow front seat.'

RETURNING ALUMNAE FIND  
GALE BLOWN CAMPUS

(Concluded from page 1, column 4)

At five o'clock, Vespers were held, with Dr. Gordon Gilkey of Springfield as speaker. Alumnae Week-End was over all too soon. It was such a short time in which to renew the old ties and friendships, and yet it was not too short if it really served the purpose of restrengthening associations with C. C., and recalling the never-to-be-forgotten four years on the hilltop.

YOUNGEST GRADUATES HAVE  
HILARIOUS BANQUET

(Concluded from page 1, column 1)

Helen Hood the class vice-president in Honolulu. As the class president, Theodosia Hewlett, was also unable to be present, the class remembered Teddy and Helen by singing to them. One of the amusing features was the advice, proved by incidents, given by Hazel Osborn and Mildred Dornan, as to the inadvisability of working in the same city with Marjorie Thompson, who, it seems, has retained her fun-loving spirit.

The banquet proved a delightful success and was thoroughly enjoyed by the thirty-three members of the class of '26 who were able to return.

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