Chapter Six -- Oskey-Now-Now! Student Life, 1890-1916

As yet we scarce have seen the world's deep strife,
Nor found its bitter woes, And living seems
So sweet in thy protecting care, Yes, life
Is gay and glad, and sunshine beams
Upon us from thy calm enlightened brow.

To thee, dear Illinois, we chant our lays,
And at thy feet our humble heads we bow,
For we belong to thee, Thy works and ways
Are ours, and ours are yours, oh Illinois,
Whose memory is so tenderly embraced
Within our hearts. Our greatest lasting joy
Has been our years with thee, Thy name has graced
Our college days, and when to life's rough wind
We bare our tender cheek, and in the race
For worldly fame, defeat's sharp sting we find,
Then in misfortune we shall see thy face,
And all the gloom shall pass away, and thou,
Oh Illinois, shall cheer us on.

The Illinois, 1906

"Everybody knew everybody else" in the Gregory and Peabody days,
and student and faculty life was correspondently simple. The Friday
night exclamation, "Let's do something," had so few answers that stu-
dents usually went to the literary society meetings. (Everything else
was closed, including the library.) But with the steady increase in em-
pollment under Burrill, Draper and James the University gradually be-
came an entirely different place—a mixed community of impersonal or-
ganizations vying with each other for campus fame. The awkward but
sincere camaraderie of early college days gradually made way for the
brisk indifference of thousands of students more intent on their own
affairs and seeing but dimly the faces in the daily rush on the Board
Walk, succeeded concretely by the Broad Walk. Only in the small Aca-
demy, which persisted for some years into the James regime, was much
left of the old happy-family spirit. The professors, at first the be-
loved teachers who knew the students as well as they knew their own
families, and would do as much for them, became more objective beings who held daily authority in large classrooms. The president of the University who once gave daily chapel talks or entered grades with his own hand stepped aside for the educational statesman so absorbed in raising more money and more standards that the students seldom saw him except when he came in between halves of a football game and C. Huff escorted him to the coach's bench. The close bond of kinship known so well to the students of the board fence and oyster parlor days faded out and was replaced by the more ephemeral loyalty to "The Orange and the Blue."

The jibes of its rivals to the contrary, Illinois never was the "saw college," "cornfield college," or "Farmers' U." suggested by its land grant background, though almost all of its students were of rural origin and were a first generation in college attendance. The customs and interests were those of the typical midwestern college. The inter-class rivalries, enthusiasm for debate and oratory, and a reliance on home talent for entertainment were common to all. Freshmen were perhaps a little greener then, but they soon learned college ways and lent their energy to the alma mater's ambitions. After the change of name in 1885 the students expected the University to live up to it. This ambition was itself a major influence in changing the character of the traditions of student life. Illinois was in 1890 departing from its provincial heritage.

The transition can be dated easily and with definiteness that is unusual in the history of evolving institutions. It began in September, 1891, with the lifting of the ban on fraternities, the release of upper-classmen from military drill, and the abandonment of the semi-military government, and was followed by the first modern commencement ceremony in June, 1892. The last chapel exercises were held in 1894, the first
Illinois appeared in the same year, and the Alumni Association gave its last literary program. Illinois helped form the Big Ten in 1896. Varsity football, the characteristic sport of modern colleges, was first played in 1890, though rugby had been tried as early as 1878 and 1879, and dancing became the most popular diversion. Deans of women appeared in 1897 and 1901--late, but still in time to help shape the new student life. But most striking was the tremendous increase in the number of students, which alone would have doomed the intimate college-family life of earlier years.

The new game quickly, but it had roots in the past. There had been a shadowy chapter of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity as early as 1872; caps and gowns had been worn by the juniors of 1877 on their class day. There had been colors since 1878--silver and cardinal, old gold or yellow and black, crimson, olive or Dartmouth green, before the orange and blue became official in 1894. The Illio had its forerunner in the Sophograph. But there was a difference.

Some of it was in the students. The inclusion of professional schools in the University brought to the campus prospective professional elements--lawyers, doctors, and others--who under other circumstances might have gone elsewhere. Graduate students, rising in number from a mere handful to over three hundred in 1910, were a leavening influence. One may also note the increasing proportion of students from urban centers and the influx of students from Chicago after the World's Fair of 1893. Shortly after 1900 the foreign students were numerous enough to form a Cosmopolitan Club, the charter membership including representatives of India, Japan, Spain, the Philippines, Mexico, and Argentina. For Filipinos and Hindus there were scholarships, and for
some years in the James era a Spanish edition of the University cata-
logue was sent to Latin America. The Latins had their own Centro
Literario Español by 1907. The Boxer indemnities brought the Chinese,
who numbered twenty-two by 1910 and fifty only three years later. One
of those who came from India was Rabindranath Tagore, '09, son of the
post-saint; the famous father was a visitor on several occasions. There
were differences even among the native born. Czech heritage was cele-
brated by a Komenskian Society formed in 1908, and the "foreigners"
from Ohio, Indiana, the North Atlantic, and other states and regions
were by that time already well organized. The first national Jewish
fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, to be represented on the campus appeared in
1912, and in early 1913 nine Negro members of the Illini Club trans-
formed their lately formed society into Kappa Alpha Nu. Next year
Alpha Kappa Alpha was opened by Negro women.

The rising enrollment was also a factor in conditioning student
life. Three decades saw the number of students increase from five hun-
dred (1890) to two thousand (1900) and to five thousand (1910), a rise
so great that the passing of the Academy and its three hundred students
sent almost unnoticed in 1912. The abandonment of the four-year curri-
sula in favor of a gradually expanding elective system had its effect,
for the common courses had been a bond in the 'seventies and 'eighties.
Indeed, the causes which doomed the older forms of student life were
numerous and varied.

Much, if not most, of Regent Peabody's difficulty in getting along
with the students in the late 'eighties was due to the unfortunate attempt
to support the old tradition of campus life against the encroachments
of the new. The strident notes of "Bah Hoo Hah, Zip Boom Ah, Hip Zoo
Ra Zoe, Jimmy blow your Basoo, Ip-sid-di-i-Ki, U. of I., Champaign,"
2. The Filipino scholarships, see BT, '06: 75, 256; '08: 26, 400, 477. The "Hindu" scholarship, Council of Administration, Minutes, May 20, 1904, 3: 95.


5. Alumni Quarterly, 7 (January, 1915), 34.

6. Ibid., 7 (April, 1915), 121.

a college yell adopted in 1886 and generally recorded as the first, must have grated on sober faculty ears and seemed reason enough for paternalism. But Ip-sid-di-i-ki was a king of birth-cry, only the beginning. Five years later the chrysalis which the regent dutifully sought to preserve was cast off in a rebellion. Burrill had little sympathy with the Rah-Boo-Rah, but he recognized that interdiction would only work further trouble, thus in the fall of 1881 were abolished in quick succession the three most galling restrains; the demerit system of government, the compulsory military drill for juniors and seniors, and the ban on fraternities.

A new note of liberality in the administrative outlook was as significant as the adjustment of specific complaints. Within the bounds set by new regulations, the social life of the students was free to follow inclination. Once asked to express the policy, Draper wrote,

I would give the largest freedom of action to students. I would pursue a broad policy touching amusements. I would not only tolerate, but I would sympathize with those things (in which) young men and young women may be properly interested. I would look with pleasure upon all manner of sports and frolics which do not endanger person, injure property or interfere with the orderly progress of university life. When a student is guilty of doing any one of these things I would punish him.

And he did. This was also James' policy, though he left the obligations to Dean Clark. It is said that early in November, 1905, when the snake dance celebrating a victory had made its way to the house of the president, as was the custom in Draper's day, Mrs. James shooed away the crowd, saying that he was in the bath tub. But James was soon making dramatic entrances at the games he attended, encouraging ceremonialism and democratically sitting on the players' bench.

"Ip-sid-di-i-ki" was no yell for orators. The sports with which
it was associated were baseball and track, the sideshows at oratorical meets. Within a few years in the early 'nineties the sideshow displaced the debaters and exhorters in the main tent. Team sports, especially after the introduction of football in 1890, became the activity most representative of college spirit. The transition from sports to athletics was itself quickly made by abandoning informality for proficiency under professional coaches. With average success in football, better in baseball, and unusually good in track, Illinois moved rapidly to more competitive conferences until in 1896 it joined with the largest institutions of the midwest to form the Big Ten. In student and public opinion, fed by sports pages, Illinois had "arrived" when it took its place among the foremost competitors in college athletics.

How quickly and quietly the old traditions could be sloughed off was shown in the case with which outside speakers were substituted for student orations at the 1892 commencement and in the lapsing of daily chapel in 1894. Hardly a voice was raised against the change. Chapel found a measure of continuance in holiday convocations, and for a few years in sociable assemblies. These latter were class organizations which brought together the faculty and classes for an evening of literary exercises, twice each term, but the custom was short-lived. Student orators lost most heavily; commencement and assemblies had been high points in the platform careers of many of them. Before long the literary societies were nursing complaints on the decline of their art. Early students had been taught to "think on your feet." Many of their commencement orations had been models of ponderous utterance, complete with gestures.

But the once-dominant literary societies continued to maintain some strength. Perhaps it was partly true that their place had been reduced to a humble third behind athletics and fraternity affairs; the prizes
of campus life and the world could no longer be claimed by the boys who passionately warned long-suffering audiences that the shadow goes not backward on the world’s dial. But Illinois oratory and debate suffered more at the hands of the orators than of the athletes. Believing they had outgrown their competitors in the small colleges nearby, the managers dropped from their schedules several of them which were not also equals in athletics. The mistake went unrecognized, and even subsidies failed to bring back prominence to the oral arts. More and more the societies found stimulation in professional entertainment. Charlie Kiler and the Adelphics once saved their piano from the sheriff by scheduling James Whitcomb Riley and claimed thus to have begun the custom, but it was at least ten years older. The rise of the Phil-Adelphian Lecture Course, after the season in 1891, and of the Star Course (attractions by “stars”), its successor in 1897, were nevertheless events of the ’nineties, and were a legacy that outlived the societies.

To the three societies existing in 1890—Philomathea, Adelphic, and the women’s Aletheari—was added a fourth in 1891, the Academy. A fifth, Illiola, for women, appeared in 1904, beginning a short-lived revival of interest that was marked by the formation of Ionian, for men, in 1906 and Athenian, for women, in 1908. The latter two were for a time formidable rivals of the older societies, but by the time of the World War the glory of the “literary” had faded. The men’s societies were then all but defunct, their places taken by more active groups.

The strongest organizations in the ’nineties were the classes, and none contributed more to rowdy good times. Fountains, a clock, trees, and other memorials still standing were typical enough of seniors looking toward graduation, but most classes had members who say that the
10. *Illini*, 24 (Oct. 11, 1894), 611.


13. F. E. Stivens, Fiftieth Anniversary of the Star Course (1942).


15. *Illinois Magazine*, 4 (June, 1915), 295-301; 5 (October, 1915), 165; see also 3 (November, 1911), 119.
class record is better found in police registers and University disciplinary actions. Each class, including the preps, had tabbed hats, caps, canes, colors, mottos, symbols, yells, smokers, debates, and athletic teams, elected officers and held parties once a term, and as sophomores, edited the Sophograph until 1894. Almost every class began a new tradition of some kind and claimed a reason for distinction, such as lowly as one as the record for threatened expulsions. And almost always the worst classes became exemplary alumni. From behind the pale blue and old rose of '97 and an adventurous career as a class under the motto Vestigia nulla retrorsum emerged George Andrew Barr, who became one of the University's ablest trustees; Alvin Casey Neal, Cornell horticulturist; Francis John Plymme, founder of fellowships and prizes in architecture; Horace Chamberlain Porter, chemist; Ernest Browning Forbes, nutritionist; and Louis Henry Smith, plant breeder. Their class was the first to wear the cap and gown at commencement and the first to hold the Soph Hop. Ninety-five, which issued the last Sophograph and the first Illio, counted among its members Charles Burdick, hydraulic engineer; Alfred Fellheimer, designer of railway stations; Peter Junkersfeld, power plant engineer; Milo Smith Ketchum, engineering dean; and Richard J. Barr, long the "dean" and commanding figure in the state senate; Emery Stanford Hall and Arthur Low Fillabury, architects; Marion Sparks, beloved chemistry librarian; Adolph Hempel, Brazilian entomologist; and Edward John Lake, being the head of the art and design department.

The advent of dancing at class parties ended the era of the Junior Exhibition and almost that of the equally characteristic class dinners and suppers. In the 'nineties, too, the parties, especially those of freshman, seemed to have but one purpose: to be interrupted. Pushing the military department's cannon into the Boneyard on Halloween was a
hoary sport, eclipsed, however, by the deviltry displayed at parties, which sometimes carried campus hooliganism to Danville, Decatur, and Bloomington.

There were the "Naughty Nine" sophomores of 1895 who kidnapped the freshman president on the night of his class party, held him a blindfolded captive in some distant farmhouse, and were punished by expulsion. Campus sympathy, as would be expected, was on the side of the nine who were expelled, though Draper's decision was respected. The parties were customarily held in a town hall--Eichberg's in Champaign or Busey's in Urbana. Throughout the 'nineties the sophomores--and who is to exempt the juniors and seniors--raided the event with eye-water, stink bombs, and muscle, bringing on what local papers magnified as riots. One in 1897 met this description, though it differed only in degree from others. That year the freshmen had rejected Draper's suggestion to hold their January party on the campus and the sophs were still sparkling from their cotillion, held the preceding night. The first that Draper heard of the rumpus came from the excited mayor of Urbana, who confusedly told a tale of a supper, eye-water, and a riot. Trying to be calm, the president suggested police action. But the police chief seemed ineffective and the fire department turned on the hose. For ten days the Council of Administration pondered and in the end eight students were expelled.

In an earlier day the freshman party had already given rise to the class rush, a custom that outlived the events which brought it forth. C. A. Kiler, '92, one of Illinois' best examples of an active student and alumnus, tells the commonly accepted account of the first one, which was in 1891. The first rush occurred in March, 1891, in the turbulent last months of the Peabody administration. According to custom the sophs
16. A Sketch of early freshman parties as in the Chicago Herald, Feb. 28, 1895, President's Scrapbook, 1887-1897, 103v.


19. The traditional account, related in Kiler's On the Banks of the Bonayard, 46-47, is as follows: "Apparently in October, 1897, the sophomores wanted to humiliate a husky freshman of Irish name and temper who flaunted his colors in the library. The sophomores found him there, and a well-prepared bodyguard of kindred spirits as well. A fight ensued, first in the library and then in the halls below, where "3" Huff mounted a gas chandelier and used his feet. He soon came down and so did the chandelier, flooding the building with gas and ending an historic occasion.

Another version, "Traditions of the Back Rush," in Illinois Magazine, 6 (November, 1914), 45, also uses the October date but begins the rush in the chapel, and states that it continued for two hours until quelled with a fire hose.

"Billy Butler was soaked by having a bucket of water thrown on him as he went up the steps to his girl's house," says Mr. Kiler in some of his other recollections. "He ran away from the sophs in waiting and hid in a wagon shop under a pile of wagon wheels ... He went back for his girl, and as his carriage had gone he had to use the street car. Arriving in front of the hotel he ran a gauntlet of sophs who soaked him with eye water, and just as he entered the building some one threw a peak measure of flour over his head.

As if this were not enough, ten gallons of molasses were put on the floor just before the "Junior Hop." -- Illini 25 (March 6, 1896), 343.
had broken up the freshman party held on the night of March 5, and in
a display of spirit the freshmen appeared in chapel the next morning
wearing class ribbons in violation of the sophomore proclamation. Some
three hundred students fought up and down old University Hall before
order was restored. Thirteen, in all, were expelled. However, few
freshmen could wait another year before holding the "second annual"
rush, so colors were passed out one December noon in 1891 and the
classes struggled for two hours on the site of Altgeld Hall before
the enthusiasm wore out.

On such a scene Draper looked only once and promptly outlawed it,
though as a night-time escapade at the nearby fairground, or West Side
Park a mile away, it lost neither importance nor vigor. Regulation be-
ing necessary, that duty was imposed on Professor Clark when he became
dean. The event was a greased-pole rush by this time, and Clark first
tried rules, then changed it to a push-ball contest for which an eight-
foot ball was imported from Drake University, but the casualty list was
longer than for all previous years combined. Then a "back-rush" was
tried, but by 1916 the student temper was such that the event could be
banned by popular vote. While the back-rush was still new another cus-
tom was established: the freshman green caps ("spots") were burned for
the first time at the "first annual cap-burning" on Illinois Field in
early June, 1914.

In looking for traditions the students did not forget the Boneyard,
which always figured large in irregular events. Generations of early
days well remember initiations in its shallow and smelly waters. It was
impossible to be very idyllic over the Boneyard, as most of the doggeral
written about it will testify.


I come from up above Champaign,
I make a sudden sally
And leave the freedom of the plain
To struggle down an alley.

I slip, I slide, I spin, I splash
To flow my only duty,
A foul receptacle for trash
And not a thing of beauty.

Draper didn't mind the drawbacks of the Boneyard; he beautified the banks forming his presidential yard. And he was not greatly concerned about the hazing in it, but the ugly name seemed unworthy, so he had it renamed "Silver Creek" — but where is the old grad now who ever heard of that?

Many a "tradition" was thus created, but it would be hard to find any as truly distinctive of Urbana campus life. Illinois borrowed much in this period. Its ambition to round out the academic circle with as many colleges and schools as other universities had was matched by the ambition to be as complete as any in its traditions. Thus hardly a year of the Burrill and Draper eras passed without a "first annual" of some kind.

Growing pains characterized the 'nineties, but always there was an ambition to excel, and in no matter what. The growing enrollment made possible a widening variety of activities. Aside from athletics, the specialized-interest clubs and societies grew most rapidly. Among the earliest were musical organizations. A mandolin and guitar club, glee clubs for men and women, and an orchestra were formed in the later 'eighties and early 'nineties. The band, reorganized and improved, gave its first public concert in 1892. For some years the Mandolin and Guitar Club was as popular as the band, sharing with it the provision of music for campus events, including dances as well as the Draper Inauguration. Sixty music lovers, both faculty and student, organized an Oratorio So-
24. Sephograph, 1895, 47.
society in 1897 which gave an annual May Festival of song and orchestral music. Director Jones of the School of Music was its first president, Mrs. Draper vice-president, Miss Fennie, the diminutive music teacher, the conductress, and D. E. Carnahan, '96, already teaching French, was the librarian. Its tradition, an annual Christmas rendition of "The Messiah," was begun before 1900.

More purely social were the dancing clubs which came in about the same time. Frowned upon by some of the students, and by moralists who were shocked to hear of such vice, the clubs were nevertheless tolerated. Draper replied to critics: "I have seen something of dancing by young people, and am ready to say that in moderation I think it is advantageous, and not harmful." Captain Brush took advantage of the popularity of dancing to build up the morale of his diffident regiment of freshmen and sophomores. A Military Ball, the "First Annual Cadet Hop," was held in late April, 1896, and on several Saturday afternoons each term or semester thereafter the captain and Mrs. Brush presided at tea dance cadet hops in the Old Armory. The classes, increasingly large, also turned to dancing when classes were no longer practicable, and the dance, whether Freshman Frolic, Sophomore Cotillion, Junior Prom, or Senior Ball, became in time the chief social tradition of class government.

Dancing and the social fraternity came in at the same time, grew up together in popularity, and were mutually self-supporting. The same difference in point of view that characterized the student opinion of dancing was reflected in the slow growth of fraternities and sororities in the 'nineties. As late as 1901 only 250 men out of 1,700 were affiliated. Sigma Chi, claiming existence back as far as 1881, and Kappa Sigma were organized in the late fall of 1891, the latter by the same Robert Lackey who came from Purdue to coach the infant sport of football.


The first step usually was to form a local. Alpha Nu, which became Phi Delta Theta, dates from 1893, and the first Tri-Delta were men who later joined Delta Tau Delta, in secret history the first Illinois fraternity. Phi Kappa Sigma, founded locally in 1892, died in the depression of 1893, and ten years passed before it was reorganized. Among the women, Kappa Alpha Theta and Pi Beta Phi were formed in 1895. In every case the inclusion of faculty and prominent alumni in the lists of founders, members, and patrons suggests that the early fraternity felt the need of social approval.

For ten years the fraternities made little impression on campus life. Then in five years, 1900-1905, the number more than trebled. It is more than a coincidence that the upsurge dates from the time of the appointment of Dean Clark, known later as "the Apostle Paul of the Greek Letter Fraternities" and "the greatest American fraternity man." Probably no man wrote more on the subject of fraternity life than he. But one may also attribute the rise to the poor campus housing facilities, to the professional and social objectives of students, and their increasingly urban origin. By 1910 twenty-one national and eight local fraternities and eight national and three local sororities were reported to have initiated or pledged 945 of some five thousand students.

The earliest fraternities rented clubrooms above stores in downtown Champaign, a mile from the campus, but chapter houses with dormitory space, still often rented and sometimes managed by the landlord, came in with the new century, and after 1910 a building era set in. Hazing, a serious matter for both freshmen and deans, was closely associated with the increase in the number of fraternities, as was the rise of even less creditable manipulation in student politics. Theta Nu Epsilon (TNE), a secret sophomore interfraternity fraternity, was to the minds of all who viewed it from the outside an especially reprehensible compound of


33. Banta's Greek Exchange, 20 (October, 1932), 327, 329. Clark's favoritism of fraternity life, from an administrative point of view, was summed up in a letter he wrote to James, Dec. 13, 1915: "It has been my experience that I can more easily control men who are members of such organizations than men who are not members," and he stressed the advantages the societies offered in the way of social orientation and housing. Pres. Corr., 1915-1916.

all the possible evils, and to its abolition Dean Clark devoted a campaign of twenty years. THE made plans of the lucrative managerial positions of the Illini, the Illini, the classes, and of any other organizations it could control through its fraternity connections; but who was who in THE was seldom discovered until graduation raised the skull and crossbones pin from undershirts to vests. President Draper vehemently opposed THE. Once as he stormed about its devilry in rigging the Illio election of 1899 his own son, Edwin Lyon Draper, '08, showed him his pin. Father Draper almost choked. Recovering voice he told his trembling son not to let Dean Clark know. "It would kill him." THE laid hands so violently on that Illio election of 1899 that a second one was ordered, and the boys then went to even greater depths underground. "Get the job and get all you can out of it" was the motto, according to Dean Clark, who pointed to the sophomore smoker of 1911 and the 1913 Illio. The principles of THE, he said, "have spread to other organizations, the workers in which want free cabs, free hats, free banquets, free jobs." A "woman's THE" was supposed to be running later, but "the incident was closed." Minutes of the meetings of the National Interfraternity Conference, which helped Clark run down the villains, indicate continued pursuit of them until 1921 when Clark reported that he had secured the Illinois charter, the list of members, and their promise to be good, though he suspected that THE was still running, mainly because of the jewelry salesmen.

But there was also a brighter side of fraternity life. Group participation in sings, stunt shows, and contests of one kind or another enriched campus life far beyond the capacity of other organizations. And it is true that fraternity alumni have been more generous in support of the University than have the more numerous independents.

The claim that the fraternity interfered with the progress of other
35. Reminiscence of Dr. Edwin L. Draper confirmed to the authors before his death in 1943. See T. A. Clark, "Concerning Theta Nu Epsilon," in *Alumni Quarterly* 7 (April, 1913), 96-102.
social and professional groups seemed to assume a limit to the gregarious instinct. Much to the contrary, life around the Urbana campus after 1900 almost proved that clubs could be formed without limit. There were fraternities among fraternity members; not only were the Chinese students members of the Cosmopolitan Club but also of a Chinese Club which fifty-five students formed in 1914. The Dixie Club, the Egyptian (southern Illinois), the Easterners', the Chic, the Kansans', Hoosiers', and others marking the origin of students in the various states and regions cut across all lines of interest. There were honorary organizations of many a stamp, but those which bulked largest among the two or three hundred claiming at least nominal existence in the deans' records were those combining some academic and social interest. Most were newly formed—only a few before 1890.

Among the oldest were the Natural History Society, the Agricultural Club, the Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering Societies. Once distinguishable from the literary societies only by the technical bent, their interests were now still further specialized by the formation of related organizations in more restricted fields. Virtually every department came to be represented by two or more clubs, one of which was usually an honorary. Among the chemists four were formed, the earliest being the Chemical Club (1892). Phi Lambda Upsilon, at first a secret fraternity but later a national honorary, originated in early 1899. In 1906 and 1908 an Urbana section of the American Chemical Society and a chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, another honorary, appeared, completing the group which in June, 1915, was strong enough to issue The Illinois Chemist, a quarterly.

The older engineering societies, already distinguished by the annual volume of Selected Papers (after 1891, The Technograph), met twice monthly to listen to a heavy fare of papers and talks, and closed the year
37. Ibid., 31-32.
38. Ibid., Introductory Number (June, 1916); 1 (April, 1916), 29.
with a banquet. A full complement of honoraries included, beginning with Tau Beta Pi (1897), Eta Kappa Nu (1904), Sigma Tau (1914), and Triangle, one of the better known professional engineering societies (1907). The ceramicists, one of the smallest groups, barbecued a pig in the kiln house and roasts were appropriately in order. But the staid shell of professionalism was rarely broken until the Electrical Engineering Society presented under the direction of Lloyd Garrison, '07, its first electrical engineering show (1907) "without exaggeration the greatest, most wonderful and instructive combination of fun and education that Illinois has ever seen." The show became a custom and the proceeds the basis of an enviable large loan fund. Co-ordination of engineering societies becoming necessary by 1917, the Engineering Council was formed as a governing body.

The mere handful of young men who formed the Agricultural Club in the early 'nineties were a lonely lot, but as the tribe increased, The Illinois Agriculturist (1897), an annual, was begun in emulation of the engineers. Within a few years a full array of departmental social, professional, and honorary subsidiaries appeared. One of the more active was the Household Science Club (1902). Judging teams sponsored by the parent club brought rivalry with other universities at annual exhibitions of farm organizations. A "Peanut Banquet," with an all-peanut menu, was a tradition after 1903. The first Ag Dance, in which the several societies joined, held in November, 1911, had a carefree, rustic spirit which at once set it apart. The colleges of Science and Literature and Arts had been least well represented by organizations in the early 'nineties, but the deficiency did not last long. By 1914 one list named the Botanical Club, Le Cercle Francais, El Circulo Espanol, the Classical Club, and other clubs called the Commercial Club, English


43. Alumni Quarterly, 6 (January, 1912), 39.
Faculty direction, time, and energy kept many of the clubs going. Lacking stable membership, most of them were annual revivals, the claim to continuous existence coming from the nucleus of officers who, elected in the spring, happened to return in the fall. When individual societies made an impression on campus life it was usually with a public entertainment, a play or sponsored lecture. Thus the Dramatic Club, of 1894, which then was probably not more than a year or two old, is known only by accounts of its players, though it was probably the first campus group to be characterized as distinctly theatrical. Before 1900 Le Cercle Francais was presenting French plays, and Der Deutsche Verein (1900) began its first year with the comedy, "Einer Muss Heiraten," continuing with three or four short presentations annually. Far more rare was the influence of the Scandinavian Club, which seems to have helped bring about instruction in its field of interest, but even here the influence may have come from the faculty membership—Laurence M. Layton, Daniel K. Dodge, and others.

The honorary society and fraternity stimulated scholarship and leadership, which they rewarded, and were also encouraged by Dean Clark and the deans of women. There had been no honoraries before 1890 and only a few in the 'nineties, but after 1900 the number rose. Chapters of Sigma Xi, the scientific honorary, and Phi Beta Kappa, the arts, inspired by the University administration, were formed in October, 1903, and November, 1907. But the important fact is that Illinois founded more new honoraries than any other institution. The law students'


Order of the Coif was begun on the Campus in 1902 as Theta Kappa Nu; Kappa Delta Phi began as the Illinois Education Club in 1909; the commerce sorority, Gamma Epsilon Phi, in 1916; and three times as many more could be mentioned. Sportloving Sigma Delta Chi, the journalism honorary, added flavor in 1912, livening the scene with an annual Dopesheet of blatant humor, and after 1916 a Gridiron Banquet, the first of which was by most accounts the best. Sam Raphaelson, '17, had ready a band of cohorts who saw to it that the meal at the Beardsdale was anything but solemn. It was an occasion the Alumni Quarterly and Fortnightly Notes described as "more good humor than in all the Illio roast sections combined." It was, according to the Daily Illini, worthy of becoming a tradition. And such it did become, at least for a time.

At the side of the scholastic honorary, though relationship may be loudly disclaimed, rose the activities senior honorary which elected the managers and manipulators of student affairs to commemorate their names as campus leaders. Shield and Trident was the first, naming members as early as 1893, and Phoenix, formed some years later, was a competitor. The laws of political gravitation were evident in both, campus politicians keeping elections well under control. They seldom took in any but fraternity students, following the routine of pledging the major sports captains, the head men of the Illini and Illio, the president of the Union, and some others not especially noted for anything but who had powerful fraternity friends. Out of a merger in 1892—perhaps one should say remains, for both were said by the Daily Illini to have the "smells of advanced decomposition"—rose Nawanda, which maintained a somewhat better record. Nawanda announced its elections on inscribed arrowheads hung on an elm at dawn. Like its predecessors, Nawanda found a useful purpose in helping Dean Clark check some of the abuses of class rushes and hazing, and sponsoring the fall homecomings. To have seniors exempted from final examinations was long one of its pro-
47. Alumni Quarterly, 6 (April, 1912), 158.


51. Council of Administration, Minutes, May 14, 1912, 9; 60. Daily Illini, May 16, 1912, 1; May 23, 1913, 1.
jects, brilliant in conception but not quite practical. The higher standing of Nawanda and its twenty members did much to justify its existence and led the women to convert Phi Delta Psi, a semi-secret junior-senior society, into a feminine counterpart of Nawanda in 1914. Four years later Phi Delta Psi affiliated with Mortar Board, giving its members the wider fellowship of a national organization. There were also "honorary" inspired by the irreverence of those who "just missed" election to the accepted societies ("Eta Beta — we got the gate," etc.), others among sophomores and juniors, not to mention those of habits of the pie and coffee shops, all of which light-heartedly commemorated the sundry virtues of a curious membership.

Thus there sprang up clubs and other groups reflecting almost every student interest; the decentralization had reached new heights. It was hard to realize that only two decades before the students were proudly wearing the same design of a U. of I. pin.

The Christian associations, the YMCA originating in the 'seventies, and the YMCA in the 'eighties, were in a class by themselves. By the very character of their activities and the support gained they were probably the most representative index of campus life. Until well into the twentieth century they were a dominating religious and social influence which went far to prove that a secular university was not necessarily godless. Their Sunday school classes were well attended; when the missionary movement was at its height in the early nineteen-hundreds the jointly-sponsored Bible and mission classes attracted nearly a third of the students, and their social programs were no less popular. The Y's filled campus needs. For years they were the campus housing agency and employment bureau; they pioneered in the orientation of freshmen and of foreign students; theirs was the first campus directory. Both had

strong faculty support; Professors Burrill, Moss, Kinley, Greene, Farr, and Devier taught their classes and otherwise helped, as did some of the faculty wives.

Most of the important social activities had charitable purposes, a principle that had been firmly established in the eighties when the organizations were young. The YM's Christmas Doll Show, as popular today as it was in 1906, its first year, grew out of a request from the West-Side Settlement Association of Chicago for dolls, and though the show became competitive and after 1912 developed annual themes, the original purpose of providing dolls for charity was maintained. A desire to aid missionary work similarly induced the YM in 1902 to sponsor the first College Night or Post-Exam Jubilee which lightened the doldrums between semesters. Philip A. Conard, '01, the Y secretary who sponsored the first, was himself one of the early beneficiaries after he left for a South American mission in 1906. The YW equivalent to the jubilee was the spring Stunt Show.

Working together in most projects, the Y's for some years shared quarters in the "Association House" at Wright and John Streets. Their building fever, reflected from that of the University itself in the mid-nineties, had netted a large sum but not enough. When the palmier days of 1906 were reached the plans were resumed and expanded, each association deciding on separate quarters. The YM built first. Its hundred-thousand-dollar building with lounges, dormitory space, and a restaurant was completed in 1908. This is the building now known as Illini Hall. Five years later the YW dedicated Hannah McKinley Memorial Hall, which also had dormitory space. Both were made possible by the singular generosity of William B. McKinley, the midwest traction and utilities magistrate of the class of '73, who contributed a total of $85,000, more than half the amount spent.

But the new YMCA Building, with all its advantages, was a disappointment
54. Daily Illini, Freshman Number, September, 1932, 27.
56. Young Men's Christian Association (Champaign, 1908). Dedication booklet.
58. The McKinley gifts totaled $50,000 to the YMCA (Wilson, op. cit., 82) and $35,000 to the YWCA (James, "The New Y.W.C.A
Building," 15).
in some ways. It was never the center for Bible study that the Old
Association House had been. It was too big and complicated for one
man, the general secretary, to run and still have time for directing
the many activities peculiar to a YMCA, and there was no money for
hiring assistants. The large mortgage and small endowment added to
the worries, neighboring business men complained of the "unfair com-
petition" and some of the contributors objected to the billiards and
bowling. Thousands of students used the building but the membership
did not grow proportionately. It was not without some relief that
the directors in 1918 turned it over to the army for use in the world
war. In return, the Y was given temporary quarters in the President's
House, and after the war in the army hut which had been built at Green
and Wright streets for the soldiers. The students seemed to take to the
rough and ready atmosphere of the place, much as the people did to the
"tabernacles" of Billy Sunday. But a fire completely destroyed it in 1923
and the Y moved back to a corner of its own building which meanwhile was
being occupied by the Illinois Union.

While neither initial enthusiasm nor the donor's generosity could
guarantee the successful financial operation of the YM's new building,
it was itself a mark of the Y's "golden age." Full-time general secre-
taries became a necessity, among them Lloyd D. Douglas, 1911-1914, the
well-known novelist, and Henry E. Wilson, who came in 1915. The con-
temporary boast that the Y was the "leading college association in the
world," though it was typical of campus exuberance, was not empty, for
it was easily the largest. For at least a year the University offered
a regular course in missions and civilization which grew out of the Y's
successful missions course, and when the study of Portuguese was tempo-

arily abandoned by the University, the Y filled in with an informal
course of its own. Members of the Y conducted classes in English,
mathematics, and mechanical drawing for the benefit of local laborers,
and "Friendly Indians" boys' club activities for the local youth. But
59. Burrill to Fred D. Keirce, Mar. 21, 1908, Burrill Letter Books, 2 (Experiment Station, 1907-1908), 436. W. A. McKnight, '44, an earlier YMSA secretary, also should be mentioned.

60. Wilson, op. cit., 96-102.
The missionary and evangelistic zeal of the Y's was at its height in the early 1900's when John R. Mott, a frequent visitor, preached "the world for Christ in a decade." Illinois, as well as the denominational colleges, had its enlistments, but the later vocational guidance activities, such as the courses in salesmanship, anticipating the College of Commerce courses, had a wider appeal. By the time of the war a freshman orientation program was already a success, and annual reports of the employment service indicated that the students were being helped to earn as much as $30,000 a year. Both functions were eventually to be taken over by the University, much as the Ym's more purely religious functions had been by the student churches.

Until about 1906 there had been regular Sunday morning walks to community churches, a mile or more from the campus. One could tell who were the math majors by the attendance at the Presbyterian church, where Professor Shattuck long taught the college class. In 1906 the Presbyterians began a student church nearer the campus, and a little later the Methodists, who claimed nearly a fifth of the students, began Sunday services in a little church known as Parks Chapel, where the Rev. James Tobie, '06, was the minister. Deans Burrill and Davenport and President James were staunch supporters of Methodist plans, which under the ministry of the Rev. James C. Baker included the erection of a half-million-dollar student religious center, the Wesley Foundation. Among the smaller sects facilities and programs were in keeping with the representation. By 1918 a fringe of churches almost encircled the campus, each of which had a strong student following.
61. Ibid., 93, passim.


63. Alumni Quarterly, 7 (January, 1913), 27.
The dispersive qualities of the new student life came on so rapidly that the laissez-faire policies adopted by Burrill and followed by Draper had to be abandoned. Had the increase in students who flocked to Urbana from 1895 to 1916 been spread over more time, they themselves might have evolved voluntary self-government. But as it was, the freshman classes of as much as a third and sometimes more nearly half the total enrollment were almost beyond assimilation. The social pattern thus became highly unstable. And there was little experience elsewhere to which Illinois could turn, for the problems had many unique aspects.

Until 1894 the control of student affairs was a faculty function. Burrill had concentrated the powers in a faculty committee on student welfare and affairs in 1891, but Draper when he came had the committee abolished at once, and assumed its duties himself. Discipline became the duty of the Council of Administration, itself an arm of the presidential office. When the offices of dean of women and dean of men were established, Draper viewed their duties as a similar delegation of the powers of the president.

The new system tended to establish separate spheres for all faculty and student activities outside the classroom. The community of interest between faculty and students was also breaking down for other reasons—the heavier teaching duties, the demands on time by ambitions in research, and the rise of faculty social organizations. Professor Kinsey was taking subscriptions for a faculty club house as early as 1894, and a Faculty Social Club scheduling monthly suppers, card parties, and dances was organized a little later. Out of this grew the University Club and the Women's University Club (both of which secured club houses), the faculty wives' groups, and the Faculty Players. The Walking
64. Subscription list and prospectus, "University Club-House and Dining Hall," 1894.

Club, or Faculty Hikers (1909), with which the names of Professors Oldfather, Ward, and Hyde are synonymous, still hikes, picnics, and holds song festes.

Both Dean Jayne, the first dean of women, and Dean Clark, to whom is given the distinction of being the "dean of deans" of men, were pioneers with duties undefined. Lacking local tradition, Dean Jayne looked to other midwestern universities and eastern girls' schools, in keeping with the spirit of the times proposing the usual self-government principles. It was commonly supposed that little could be done for the women until a special building was ready. But when the Woman's Building was opened in 1908 the difficulty of planning for its use, other than as headquarters for home economics and as a lounge for meetings, was no less great.

Trying to keep the students from being sinful not only on Sunday but on every day of the week was the responsibility of a thin, nervous little man with a cropped mustache and watery blue eyes, the unforgettable Thomas Arkle Clark, dean of men. It was not fashionable later to think of deans of men as much more than polite advisers, but when "T. A." was in his prime he not only was adviser, he also was judge, jury, and prosecuting attorney. Many students who have felt the sizzle of his punishments will earnestly swear that T. A. had a "spy system" in his office that saw all and knew all. But that was more legend than truth; as were some other things about the dean, who had a good memory for faces, assisted by a file of photographs, and an almost uncanny lie-detector skill in putting two and two together and getting the answer. His suave ability to extract the facts from an unsuspecting informant made him resented as well as highly regarded by students who saw in him their only hope against their natural enemy, the faculty. The old grad
68. A small collection of papers and photographs of Walking Club activities in the early years of its existence, kept in the Illinois Collection, would seem to indicate that the club was a "major activity."
who dropped in to see him after twenty years and was astounded to be
greeted by his first name did not know that T. A. had all the infor-
mation on a slip that had been hurried in from the front office. The
jittery freshman who had been called in to explain some high jinks of
the night before, and found that the dean already had all the details,
did not know that the house president had reported the incident the
night before with the request that the freshman be brought to book.

Dean Clark laid great stress on personal contact; his office at
one time was reported to average nearly 150,000 callers a year—Sundays
included, for parents often found it easier to drop in then and
talk over their sons’ troubles. The dean and his helpers found jobs
for them, checked up on them if they joined organizations (some 350 of
them), kept track of their cuts, watched their grades, settled their
spats with landladies, and inspected their houses, loaned them money,
visited them in the hospitals, stayed with them through operation,
dictated thousands of letters to them and to their parents, handled car
permits, promoted the Hospital Association, attended dinners, made
speeches, kept open house Sunday afternoons, tried to blast timid or
stubborn mayors and sheriffs into activity, visited the Chicago colleges
of the University and conferred with the men there, served on the Illini
Board of Control and thus had a hand in student publications, and symp-
thathized with homesick students.

To do so much, the dean needed a great deal of authority, and this
he had as secretary of the powerful Council of Administration and chair-
man of its Committee on Discipline. Many of the hundreds of cases con-
sidered routine were acted on by Clark himself, without going through
the council, and the outcomes of those which did were dependent largely
on his recommendations, based on the first-hand information he always
had. President James once said that in fourteen years only one dis-
67. Dean Clark kept up a lively interest in student health and in the Hospital Association, which had been founded in 1899 (one of the first of its kind.) The dean was a close friend of Congressman W. E. McKinley, and was influential in inducing him to finance the campus hospital which bears his name.
discipline case went on up to the Board of Trustees, and in that one the
Counsel's action was upheld. Clark's little book, Facts for Freshmen,
the various editions of which were sent every fall to all new students,
was a sort of boiled-down combination of the University catalogue, the
rules for undergraduates, and the traditions, with a few vest-pocket
sermons thrown in. Clark wrote several other books and newspaper col-
umns for general readers. He never got around to writing a case book
on campus devilment, suitably indexed, for the use of future deans, but
he had all the makings of one. As a hobby he took up knitting and for
many years he also found time to teach a course in rhetoric, which is
and he also headed the rhetoric division. fondly remembered by many old-timers. He was the first dean of many, but
others before him were known as especially warm friends of the students,
and perhaps none more so than Prof. Edward Snyder, who a few years be-
fore his retirement in 1896 had given $12,000 for the University's first
student loan fund. His life savings, it was a large sum of money in
those days, and the largest loan fund contributed in the Draper-James
period.

"Spike" Hunt, '06, who as a reporter scooped the world with a copy
of the Versailles treaty, saw Clark as one who "suffered rather intensely
from the obsession that he was a cross between a village philosopher and
a Sherlock Holmes," a view common among those who had been at one time
or another on the dean's carpet. His youth had been spent in two small
Illinois towns, Minook and Rantoul; his education included some summer
graduate work at Harvard but otherwise was that of the Illinois campus
to which he came as a preparatory student. As dean it became his duty
to carry out the Draper policy of effective administration through organ-
isation. A system of attendance and reports on grades was begun, enabling
Clark to prevent the otherwise inevitable doom of many a delinquent.
He learned of the sick who were without care, the poor whose necessary
68. The Sunday Night O’Clock, 1916; The Fraternity and the College, 1917; The High School Boy and His Problems, 1920; When You Write a Letter, and Discipline and the Bereelist, 1921; The Fraternity and the College, 1931.

69. Frasier Hunt, One American and His Attempt at Education (New York, 1938), 47.
devotion to labor threatened their career, and the idle whose habits promised no good end. He extended help to all.

"Doing something for the women," the hope of the 'nineties,

implied the appointment of a woman professor of full rank, the re-establishment of the lapsed home economics course, and the erection of a woman's building, but beyond these were only hazy ambitions. Two of the three specific demands were still the subject of the first "Women's Edition" of The Illini which Emma Rhoads, '99, edited in March, 1898. In it, too, was a suggestion by Dean Jayne that an all-inclusive women's organization was needed. Just before the year ended, a general woman's assembly was called to talk over self-government. The modest action taken formed a code of conduct of three points: to insist on chaperonage at parties, to leave parties at least before midnight, and to go to dances only on Fridays and Saturdays. In the fall the anticipated women's association was formed. The name, Watcheka League, was in honor of a fabled Illinois Indian Maiden.

Watcheka lost enthusiasm for Indian lore and changed its name to Women's League less than ten years later. It co-ordinated all women's activities on the campus. A hospital association was formed, and before ten years had passed the league had furnished a room in Burnham Hospital for the convenience of its members. The early receptions and teas brought out as many as two hundred women, more when chafing dish parties meant fudge. Like other organizations, the league climaxed its year with an open party. The one held in May, 1899, at which Miss Carpenter's gym class wound a Maypole to the accompaniment of the university band, was the first May Day. Seventy-two women took part in the second presentation and by 1906 the crowds were so great that the event had to be moved to Illinois Field. In 1910 it included over three hundred participants, attracted seven thousand spectators, and had be-
70. A. R. Warnock, Origin and Development of the Office of the
Dean of Men in the University of Illinois (1916), filed
with Dean of Men’s Office, Annual Reports, 1914-1926, of-
rice of Dean of Students.

71. Illini, 27 (June 8, 1896), 587.

of the University of Illinois” was formed in February, 1896,
but little is known about it. Illini, 25 (Mar. 13, 1896), 351-
352.

73. History of the Woman’s League, 2. Daily Illini, Oct. 6,
1907, 1. See also Footnote 67.

74. Illini, 25 (May 12, 1899), 510-511. May 19, 1899), 522, 524;
May 16, 1900, 1. The inspiration might have been drawn
from the Pi Beta Phi Maypole fete reported in Illini, 25
(May 6, 1896), 472.
come known as the May Day Pete. Its success suggested similarly sponsored carnivals, fairs, and gymnastic exhibitions which were almost as well supported. The well-earned proceeds were marked for hospitalization funds, loans, and other charitable purposes.

But the women were still not quite satisfied. They were inclined to believe that their place in campus life was secondary and that their lot was the "inevitable secretarships: all work and no glory." However, in intramural sports they were far better organized than were the men. The teams of the Woman's Athletic Association, organized in 1909, competed throughout the year. Then too they could point to Irma Voight, '10, who out-talked competing male orators to win the University's place in the contest of the Northern Oratorical League at Minneapolis with a line that overruns the threadbare subject, "The Status of Woman." Miss Voight later became dean of women at Ohio University.

While about all of Dean Clark's university life was spent as dean of men, and he developed the position into a great power, no dean of women up to the 'twenties had stayed in office more than a few years. The first one, the beloved Miss Violet R. Jayne, who began in 1897 and continued until her marriage in 1904 to Prof. E. G. Schmidt, had the longest term. Miss Martha J. Kyle, '97, of the English department looked after the work as acting dean in 1905-1906 and again in 1915-1916. Mariam Dean Daniels, wife of Professor Daniels, is also remembered as head of "Woman's Hall," the parlor of the new Woman's Building, 1905-1907. Others in the James period were Miss Lily Kollock, 1907-1910, Mrs. Mary E. Farr, 1910-1913, Miss Fanny Cook Gates, 1916-1918, and Miss Ruby R. G. Mason, 1919-1923. As one result of so many deans coming and going in sixteen years, continuity of policy and leadership were lacking.


In spite of the early success of the Watheka League, no masculine equivalent appeared until 1909. A suggestion by President James at his first convocation in 1904 that an Illinois Union be formed had aroused little enthusiasm, and it was not until Professor Breckenridge reopened the subject at a Junior class smoker in 1906 that any interest was evident. When the same class was reorganized in the fall a committee was appointed. E. E. Hutchin, Lion Gardiner, the class president, E. H. Erskine, and E. H. Talbot represented the seniors, and Dean Clark, Dean Goss, and Professor Greene, the faculty. They suggested an organization modeled on the Reynolds Club of the University of Chicago and the unions of Harvard, Michigan, and Columbia. The plan was approved, and the Illinois Union's first president, J. C. Herbstman, '09, was elected in early 1909.

One of the first acts of the Illinois Union was to hold a banquet, attended by over seven hundred men, at which plans for a union building with club rooms, offices, and trophy rooms were unfolded. A campaign was begun. Early in 1911, with conditional pledges for $70,000 on hand, the Union bought the postoffice building north of the Co-op, but did not try to use it for headquarters. Meanwhile, the rise of the Gregory Memorial Building and University Hospital movements were attracting some attention. Then came the war, and everything vanished from the drafting tables that could not be tagged as war winners.

After April, 1910, the Union had a constitution, establishing it as the government of the classes and the manager of numerous student activities, but ambition outran achievement. Its greatest early success—perhaps even this should be qualified—was the student musical comedies, the first of which, "The Maid of the Moon," by George Morris, '10, and Paul Morris, was given at the Walker Opera House in January, 1911. A "broiler chorus" of female impersonators and the take-off on
   Bryant Hassler, "11, "University of Illinois Union."
   Illinois Magazine, 2 (February, 1911), 266-267.


80. Ibid., 3 (April, 1910), 155. University of Illinois Union,
   Its Aims and Purposes (Champaign, 1909), 2-3

81. "An indescribably sorry affair that was yet somehow a success"--Nevins, Illinois, 252.
Dean Clark were hits, and it was decided to have another opera the next year. "The Dad of the Undergrads," a skit laid at "Orblue College," by E. G. Oldefest, '06, and L.E. Patton, '09. It was financially a failure but the students liked the lyrics. Meanwhile the Union itself, managing its miscellaneous duties with only fair success, was more often criticized than complimented.

The Alumni Association was also coming into new life. It had been awakened by Burrill in 1892 to the possibility of helping secure the Memorial appropriation, but reorganization was necessary before the association could make its influence felt. It had been holding annual meetings at commencement, marked by addresses of mutual admiration and the election of officers, and was content. The literary programs hallowing memories and perpetuating the backward look were abandoned in 1894.

To swell the membership, dues had been discontinued in 1889. Hoping to contribute more to the welfare of the alma mater, several members of the association proposed in 1902 that it recommend candidates for University trustees. For three years this issue, and the larger one of the function of an alumni association in a state university, were debated. The Alumni had also been interested in the change in name of the University and in the authorization to grant degrees. The Alumni Association's "committee on legislative action," with twenty members representing twenty state districts, cornered the legislators in Springfield and told them the University's wondrous story. This procedure in various forms was especially encouraged by President James, after he came in 1894:

At the annual meeting of 1905, trustee nominating committees recommending slates to the major parties were established. At the next meeting, in 1906, decisions were made to reorganize the association, to give special emphasis to the tenth, twenty-fifth, etc., anniver-

63. Alumni Report, University of Illinois, 1894 (Urbana, 1894), 9.

64. Alumni Association of the University of Illinois, Meetings of 1899 and 1900 (Urbana, 1899), 3.

65. Ibid., 1903, 10-11; 1904, 12-13; 1905, 15-14.
saries of the classes, and to publish a magazine. Thus invigorated, some members of the association began agitation for an advisory board like the overseers of Harvard, but without success. The organization of Illini clubs was encouraged; some were already strong, notable those in Chicago (formed in 1876), the Puget Sound area (1891), Kansas City, St. Louis (1903), New York (1904), Rockford (1904), Cambridge, Massachusetts (1904), and Peoria (1905). By 1915 the list, grown to forty-nine, included clubs in Brazil, India, and Japan. Much of the work fell to Professor F. W. Scott, '01, who became both secretary of the association and editor of The Alumni Quarterly in 1907, following his publication of the first Alumni Record the year before. In 1915 Scott began The Fortnightly Notes as a supplement to the Quarterly; by that time the latter had already become an issue of more than a hundred pages. A merger in 1915 established The Alumni Quarterly and Fortnightly Notes, the familiar AOFN, published fortnightly instead of quarterly. In this form it went through the World War I period, paying close attention to the thousands of alumni in service and to the war activities of the University itself. By this time the work of the alumni office had been expanded to do more promotion among the Illini clubs and the classes and to energize the Illini world in general.

General alumni activities, however, did not take the characteristic twentieth-century form until after the first fall homecoming in 1910, a tradition of American universities originating at Illinois, and the students threw themselves into it with the greatest of enthusiasm. Because of their presence the affair was livelier and freer than any commencement had ever been. That first of all homecomings was conceived and managed by members of the classes of '10 and '11—W. E. Ekblaw and C. F. Williams in particular—and G. W. Schoeffel, Carleton Trimble, Fred Neyes, and others with the assistance of C. A. Kiler, '02, and
86. Ibid., 1906, 16, 17. An "alumni journal" had been proposed as early as 1875.

87. R. E. Schreiber, '04, A Word to the Alumni of the University of Illinois about an Inspecting and Advisory Board (Chicago, 1909).

88. Alumni directories have since been published in 1913, 1916, 1919, 1921, and 1929. The alumni list has now become so long, obsolescence is so fast, and the expense of compiling a directory so high, that none has been undertaken in the last decade.
Professor S. W. Farr, '84. It was sponsored by the two men's honor societies, the Union, and the Alumni Association. Two days, October 14 and 15, were set aside for the holiday. When it was realized that Chicago, which Illinois had not beaten in many years, would be the opponent, everyone rallied to make Homecoming a thumping occasion.

The first event was the fresh-soph pushball contest; a "hobo band" parade followed, during which Leo G. Hana, the gym director, was given the first severe haircut anyone could recall, and a varsity-alumni baseball game climaxed the afternoon. At dusk a mass band of regulars and alumni gave a concert; speeches followed, and the audience of six thousand who filled the Illinois Field bleachers sang a new "Sunset Song" composed for the occasion by Professor S. W. Colvin, F. A. W. Drury, '05, and O. W. Schreiber, '07. This was only the beginning.

On Saturday were more contests, the reunions of classes and fraternities, and an announcement by the trustees of a thousand-dollar fellowship in architecture by Francis J. Plym, '37, the first gift of its kind made by an alumnus. On Saturday afternoon the varsity "hung it on Chicago" 5-0 with Seiler's drop-kick, happily photographed. The victory over the legendary Jonah, Alonzo Stagg, was the first in nine years. Later in the evening a wild snake-dance wound its way back up Burrill Avenue to Illinois Field again for the celebration bonfire, followed by more parties, entertainments, and pranks. It was the perfect college holiday. Still glowing three days later, the Daily Illini said: "The echoes of the events of the great Home-Coming will be heard as long as the University endures, for it is now almost a certainty that it will be adopted as a permanent annual institution the like of which no other university can boast." The thousands of alumni who returned were delighted with this new view of their alma mater going completely collegiate. Before ten days had passed, word came from other campuses that they too
87. Alumni Quarterly 4 (October, 1910), 347.

90. H., 112; 36.


91. The Illini, Oct. 16, 1910, 1.
would adopt the homecoming tradition.

Homecoming, the May Day Fete, and other festivals of student life were examples of successful campus organization, yet in the larger sphere of self-government there was surprisingly little interest until later. The Union was inclined to minimize its regulatory functions, and not until 1916 proposed a Student Council to oversee the classes and other non-promotional obligations. This was promptly set up and its officers elected—a president and ten junior-senior councillors. John P. Grabes, '16, who with his classmates W. E. McCracken had written the constitution, became the first president. To this first council was added an advisory one of four sports captains, the Illini and Illio editors, and representatives of Lambda Xi Nu, the Union, the YMCA, and the dramatics societies.

This Council, intended as a student equivalent of the University Council of Administration, had some of the trappings but few of the powers of a government. Its major contribution in twenty years' existence was a test of the honor system in examinations. For some reason disciplinary actions by the Council of Administration in cases of examination irregularities were increasing in 1915, when public confession was added to the list of punishments. The infractions did not lessen, and the students were bitter; in 1916 the faculty Council announced the adoption of the proctor system. Thoroughly aroused, the Student Council, the Union, and Woman's League hastily convened to protest. The Council of Administration relented and agreed to accept an honor system run by student commissions under the direction of the Student Council.

But the experiment was brief. More stringent than the Council of Administration had ever been, the students in the end had to be saved from themselves. It might be worth adding that they voted out the honor system in an all-campus referendum.
92. Ibid., April 21, 1915, l; May 13, 1915, 1.
94. Daily Illini, May 24, 1918, 1; June 4, 1919, 1; Council of Administration, Minutes, April 30, May 13, May 28, June 7, 1919, 18: 165, 19: 11, 21, 24.
Control through organization followed by President Draper, Dean Clark, and the Council of Administration, was successful in most group discipline. A sporadic liquor problem was thus met whenever it arose by denying the social privileges of offending groups. But no panacea was found for the mounting ruffianism of the classes and the hazing in general. Annually the Council of Administration heard the same old stories of freshmen thrown into the Boneyard, scufflings, and forced obeisances of one kind or another. The incidents were easily embellished by sensational reporters, and Illinois began to get the reputation of being a rough place. There is little reason to doubt either that many enthusiastic Illini were also proud of it.

The sophomore custom of posting funny (?) proclamations filled with vivid name-calling and lecturing the freshmen did not help matters; neither did the freshmen's gloating over victories in the color rushes and other class  
scraps. Older students who had seen them for years regarded the "prose" plastered everywhere on the campus and in the towns as a
nuisance, as were also the class numerals daubed on walls and fences.

The attempted humor usually misfired; but once at least it didn't. Draper had told a student convocation on the eve of the Spanish-American war: "This...I will say unreservedly: There will be no war between the two nations." War was declared a week later and Draper had the opportunity of reading his pontifical statement daubed large on a handy fence, and in the Illio. The events of the fall of 1906 were more typical. Hazing and other pranks had been the subject of an early convocation, and the sophomores had held a meeting to disavow a "revival" of the usual interclass ruffianism. Notice of this intention was printed and sent out to the state press and members of the legislature, but a few nights later bands of sophs roamed the district jeering at freshmen and posting an offensive prose on walls, porches, trees, windows, and posts. The early morning disturbances ended up in a thrashing battle.
92. Horner, The Life and Work of Andrew Sloan Draper, 151, at passim, with illustration.
with the campus police. The greased-pole rush, which followed in two
weeks, was one of the roughest; after seven rushes had failed, the
sophomores and freshmen
sophs and freshmen went into forty-five minutes of free-for-all. Only in
formal debate were the sophs able to turn the tables.

The spontaneous parades, snake-dances, and bonfires after athletic
victories were outbreaks harder to handle. Legend has it that when Presi-
dent James declined to be serenaded that first Saturday evening in Nov-
ember, 1904, the crowd made its way down town for the first time, and
that the downtown celebrations succeeded the class parties, by then no
longer held.

With all this student deviltry going on, it was inevitable that re-
lations with Urbana-Champaign were not always pleasant. Student life
in general outside the class room erupted into pent-up explosions in
various forbidden activities, succeeded by the inevitable punishments.
Certain business men at times affected a rather patronizing air; they
had not yet been trained by a chamber of commerce to look with toler-
ance on such doings, and were too often ready to blame the boys from
the "Uni" rather than the local hoodlums for pushing the police through
glass doors. "Celebrations," or rather "riots" as the city officials
and the newspapers liked to call them, would flare up almost any spring
night, or after an especially delicious athletic victory. Noisy crowds,
swollen by eager high school youths and townsmen in general, surged
down town (usually Champaign) and up to the doors of the opera house or
"Orph" theater, and if the managers talked back, no worthy less than
G. Huff himself could stop the raid. The papers printed terrific head-
lines, the mayor wrote to the president, the president to the mayor,
and volunteer policemen never tired of telling how single-handed they
had spun bellowing students into the gutters. At one time two fights


98. Including at least two German language papers, *Sonntagsblatt des Democrat* and *Quincy Germania* (November 10, 1906).
were going on in front of the mayor's house. Celebrations managed by the Illinois Union were tried on Illinois field where a celebration urn was built as a class memorial, but that wasn't quite the same as the good old hullabaloo downtown.

A memorable planned affair that did succeed was the torchlight parade of the James inauguration, in which all the students joined in a salute, including floats and fireworks. In 1907 the Interscholastic week-end was made another holiday and a new tradition, though now no longer observed. Since 1893 the state high schools had been coming to Urbana to compete for the state championships in track, tennis, and oratory while their teachers met in teaching conferences with the University faculty. To help the visitors have a good time the University students presented the Maypole fete, band concert, baseball games and a track meet, a circus, and dances. Only two parts of the program were new in 1907, the circus and the YMCA Stunt Show, but the combination and more particularly the new events gave a climax to the year's campus life, a kind of mardi gras that marked the beginning of betting for examinations. Students, students and townspeople, filled Illinois field to capacity.

As far back as 1890 the local political organizations in the two cities had been interested in voting by students, because there were enough of them to swing some elections, such as the one ousting the 49 saloons in 1907, the first time in the life of the University that the community had been free of them. Individual candidates in the two cities sometimesickered with student leaders who were thought able to "deliver the vote." In at least one instance such tactics stirred

100. *Illini*, May 15, 1907, 1; May 19, 1907, 1. *Illio*, 1910, 224.

101. *Illini*, 30 (March 7, 1891), 18.

102. *Alumni Quarterly*, 1 (July, 1907), 175.
up a newspaper controversy which did the University no good. A few years later the Illini backed a campaign favoring the "no-license" statute, and several students were brought to trial for illegal voting, but were acquitted. Then came the four-mile law prohibiting sales within four miles of the campus, and finally national prohibition at the end of the period.

As has been said earlier in these pages, housing was a problem from the very beginning, when all of them lived in the original building. When one corner collapsed in a tornado, with few visible regrets, the first dormitory system went with it, and students lived in neighboring homes—an arrangement which was satisfactory only while the enrollment remained small. But with the steady increase after 1880, crowding was all too common, and when Dean Clark began keeping student records the correlation between poor housing and misery was at once plain. Local churches and the Y's had seen the trend some years earlier. The Episcopalians opened a dormitory for sixteen men in 1904, Osborne Hall for thirty women in 1909, and the Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches had followed the precedent. College Hall (100 men), a private venture, opened in 1912. The Y's had housing bureaus and included dormitory space in their new buildings, and also housing bureaus.

Academic needs were so great that the trustees were reluctant to ask for funds for residential halls. One committee headed by Dean Clark recommended in 1912 the building of two small units to set standards, but it was clear that only large halls would do. Finally, $100,000 was made available in 1915 for a women's hall to be erected on Nevada Street, and accommodations for a hundred women were completed in 1918. Men, however, were the first to use the building, for it had to be turned hastily into a war barracks for the School of Military Aeronautics.
104. Champaign News, May 1, 1907, and Champaign Gazette, May 2, 1907. It should be added that the right of students to vote away from their home towns has always been seriously questioned by legal authorities, including the legal counsels of the University.

104. Daily Illini, February 20, 1913, 1.


Agitation for the four-mile law was nothing new. It had been proposed as early as 1894. (Alumni Report, 1894, 6.)


108. Report, Committee on Dormitories, Senate, Minutes, Dec. 16, 1912, 3; 82.

139. 47, '18, 11, 294, 545.
Regulation, the alternative, also presented formidable obstacles. Regular inspections before 1914 only confirmed the general opinion that unsatisfactory conditions prevailed. A standard for women’s rooms was set up as early as 1904 and “white lists” set apart the acceptable, but no notable improvements had resulted. Even after Dean Clark began annual inspections of men’s houses in 1914, he had to resort to the sheriff’s office to force the installation of fire escapes. Rising prices, reflected in the increase of student living costs from some $500 a year to $600 between 1900 and 1915, aggravated the situation.

One effective solution, though applied only on a small scale, was the ACA co-operative house established by the local chapter of the American Collegiate Alumni in 1917. They took over a University-owned house for a modest rental, providing ten girls with excellent accommodations for only sixteen dollars a month. A second house on the same plan, Campbell Cottage, was opened a little later. But still unsolved was the general housing problem facing two-thirds of all the students.

The preoccupation with community relations and incipient traditions and the many false starts were evidence of the immaturity of campus life. After a few years’ reflection most graduates would have agreed with Allan Nevins, ’12, who wrote from the vantage point of (1917) that the conditions of campus life made it “likely to be the prey of sophomoric ideals.” There were indeed many who mourned the passing of the rah-rah tradition—the theater rushes and other celebrations, and the class cements, in which there was a notable decline after 1912. But year by year student life was losing its crudeness and gaining a sense of direction more in keeping with the higher academic ideals of the faculty. In coming to this new status, however, the students lost some of their refreshing originality. The post-exam jubilee, the inter-scholastic circus, and the gridiron banquet, all no longer given, were...


112. A Brief History of Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Houses, University of Illinois (1943), Dean of Women's Office.

activities into which many students poured their talents and efforts and showed some brilliance. Old incentives are gone, and the movies and radio have made it increasingly easy to follow the path of least resistance.

To trace the Illini in its progress from a small fortnightly magazine to a full-sized daily newspaper would reveal remarkable progress toward the university standard. Between Editor T. A. Clark, '90, and Editor Harold Boomer Johnston, '19, who also became assistant to the University president, as Clark had been, there was growth culminating in the Illini's claim to be the 'world's greatest college daily,' a tribute won in the comparisons made by collegiate press associations.

Every five years brought some significant advance toward the ideal of a campus paper of professional standards. In 1893 the twice-monthly dates of publication became weekly; in 1898, thrice-weekly; in 1902, daily except Saturday and Sunday, and in 1907, when the revised name Daily Illini was adopted, daily except Sunday. Even more remarkable was the improvement in editorial qualities. The introduction of journalism courses in 1904, developed a few years later by Professor Frank W. Scott, '01, who had been Illini editor in his senior year, was a notable stimulant, and by 1912 a standard seldom equaled had already been set.

E. G. "Shorty" Branda, '11, had run an excellent sports page in 1910-11 and this began a long career in sports journalism. H. H. Herbert, '12, was editor in 1911-12, headed the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism within five years after graduation, and Allen Novina, '12, his chief new editor, became a widely known journalist and historian. The same era saw the birth of the "Campus Out" and the cartoons of E. H. Morissey, '15, the best that have yet appeared. Herbert also introduced the system of competition for staff positions which has determined the editorial succession. It remained only for George Burch, '14, to
activities into which many students poured their talents and efforts and showed some brilliance. Old incentives are gone, and the movies and radio have made it increasingly easy to follow the path of least resistance.

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issue the first *Summer Illini* in 1915 and Milton J. Silver, '17, to
aid the Associated Press wire service.

The newspaper format was adopted in 1899 with the help of a sub-
vention; it was Draper's policy to help "infant industries." Every
year thereafter saw an increase in size of the issue and in the pro-
fits from advertising. Advertising proved to be a "good thing," the
exaltation of merchants' wares and theater billings for a time threat-
enced to turn the paper into a business manager's paradise. The profits,
divided between editor and manager, sometimes nearly a thousand dollars
a year, lifted more and more eyebrows. The *Illini*, also well filled by
advertising, was another temptation, and so was class politics, which
offered opportunities in hiring orchestras for dances and buying tobacco
for smokers. The tales of the levy, usually identified with the secret
fraternity TKE and its cohorts, were sometimes fabulous. One *Illini* ed-
tor was said to have taken not only a large commission on the engravings
of his own issue, but also on the next. Class dances were probably an
even greater source of profit to the officers and committee members.
Until it felt the pinch, the *Daily Illini* was editorially the champion
of righteousness, hastening the adoption of a system of accounts and
audits which the Council of Administration was forced to impose on all
student organizations in 1907.

The *Daily Illini* was itself forced to distribute its profits more
widely in 1908, but sterner measures had to be taken in 1911, when
the Council of Administration announced that the paper would henceforth
be issued by a non-profit *Illini* Publishing Company, the appointed faculty
members and elected student board members of which would appoint the
117 staff. The plan was put into effect amidst an uproar; the first election
saw not a single student vote. "Purist Purity Marks a Voteland *Daily
Illini* Election," ran the heading of March 24, 1911.


The Council of Administration failed to be utterly crushed; however, and merely called another election. The ten men who voted in this were blasted with scorn; the editor contemptuously wrote that the tomb door was opened for a resurrected paper to "fly away to the mansion prepared in faculty heaven." But the Daily Illini which emerged was not crowned—the Illini never had been—and thanks to able members of the class of '12, the paper was the best that has ever appeared and in some ways has not since been equalled. Gone were the days when campus editors and managers could not only give themselves a good living but could buy new cook stoves and lake trips for the folks at home.

Life was less certain for the magazines which took over the Illini's literary heritage. The first, The Varsity Fortnightly (1899), "a college periodical of some literature and a little art," failed in less than two years. Its successor, The Illinois of the English Club, brightened its debut in 1901 with a contest, the aftermath of which was a mournful admission that only one worthy essay had been submitted.

It managed to survive for six years, however, on the strength of advertising and faculty support. When advertising was withdrawn The Illinois slowly died, and its place was taken by The Scribbler, the product of an enthusiastic literary club known as the Scribblers. But The Scribbler also suffered the same fate, and the connection was broken to leave the magazine to its inevitable demise. Its successor, The Illinois Magazine of 1909, which became a creditable monthly, issued in lighter vein than its predecessors, it was nevertheless well balanced.

Primarily the product of undergraduates, these three publications were at times subject to the temptation of becoming merely monthly or seasonal records of events. But the editorships of Arthur Ray Warnock, '05, and Carl Van Doren, '07, brought discriminating literary standards.

120. *The Illinois*, 1 (November, 1902), 29; (February, 1903), 121.

to The Illinois which made easier the lot of their successors. The Illinois Magazine of Allan Nevins and Mark Van Doren, '14, was an improvement in both quality and size. Hal Page, '16, and Sam Raphaelson, '17, later added a twentieth-century format. As barometers of the campus literary groups, the magazine reflected indirectly the influence of Sherman and Guild, the English Department's pre-war luminaries, and the groups of which they were the center.

Were the drama of the time to be judged by the space allotted in the Illini, one must assume that Billy Watson and the choruses at the Walker and Orpheum were the principal fare. The two towns lacked good drama, as they did a good stage until Lincoln Hall Theater was opened in 1930. Student drama was thus late in developing; the first recorded plays that were more than skits dated only from the early 'nineties.

Morrow Hall in the Agriculture Building, completed in 1902, had the only stage on the campus. Sheridan was no doubt overdone during this first period, but the French and German clubs offered variety and novelty of plays in a foreign idiom. Short-lived dramatic clubs presented their comedies, and floundered. Excepting the much reorganized Faculty Players who date from 1906, Mask and Bauble (1907) was the first to maintain itself for more than a season. Behind both was the moving spirit of Thacher Howland Guild, who had come as instructor in rhetoric in 1904 and introduced courses in drama in 1906. Guild gradually weaned the prevailing taste from schoolish presentations to the brighter and more sophisticated plays of contemporaries.

In Morrow Hall the campus came to make a new acquaintance with Shaw, Masterlinck, and Synge. Drama indeed waxed in popularity as debate and oratory waned; the literary societies' annual plays began to draw wider support than their oratorical contests. Several new dramatic organizations gained footing, among them Pierrot and Lambkins, two active al-
122. Mask and Bauble was itself a reincarnation of the Dramatic Club, one of several such organizations bearing the name since at least 1894. *Alumni Quarterly*, 1 (July, 1907), 138.
male groups. By 1915 the existence of nearly a dozen producing organizations warranted the formation of the co-ordinating Illinois Drama Federation, a forerunner of the Theater Guild. Its hope was to convert Morrow Hall into a true workshop, but University Architect James N. White had only to point out that the architectural defects would make that impossible.

Guild did not live to plan for the future with the Drama Federation, but before his collapse on the tennis courts in the summer of 1914 he had kindled the creative talents of his undergraduate followers. Their memorial to him was a prize fund for original one-act plays and dramatic poetry, a field in which he had himself written much. Of the dozen or more plays presented in 1914, four were his own: "The Power of a God," "The Portrait," and "The Higher Good," all done by the Faculty Players, and "Higher Up" by the students. All are the subject of fond reminiscences, though they have been revived but rarely. After Guild's death the minds of the dramatic groups began to wander. Naughtiness and sophistication were confused, and Mask and Bauble soon ran afoul of the Council of Administration by presenting "Fasces by." The Council, not ready to have Broadway invade the campus, slammed a pre-presentation censorship on all public offerings.

Such a ban was partly justified, but it had the deeper significance of reflecting a change in the student outlook. The rowdiness of earlier days had been outgrown; the rushes, theater celebrations, and skullcap daggery of campus life had been largely put aside as the wild oats of youth. The hopefully noted signs of growing maturity in 1904 were by 1914 unmistakable; a kind of sophistication was setting in. Much that appeared in the Illinois Magazine in later years carried a tone of youth wise beyond its years, a bliss quality contrasting sharply with the guileless wide-eyed enthusiasm at the beginning of the century. The
123. Council of Administration, minutes, Mar. 3, 1915, 12; 108.


125. See at beginning of this chapter.
new mores plainly perturbed the Council of Administration. The tango and other wriggling rhythms were not allowed at class dances in 1913, and in 1916 the order went out to "stop all 'ragging' and unnatural movements such as wriggling the shoulders, swaying the hips, pumping the arms, flopping the elbows, skipping, hopping, galloping, or low fantastic dips." To complete the control, all dancing clubs were dissolved at the end of the 1916 spring semester. Another campus venture, the film "Pro Patria," an attempt to portray student life in the smart pre-war fashion, was criticized by some alumni who in urging that a match be touched to it seemed to prefer the softer picture of their memory.

In the early 1890's, the president himself still looked after student absences and changes of studies. The Rules for the Government of Students ran only nine pages in 1896, but had grown to thirty-two by 1902. They had doubled again by 1909, and still again in 1915, when 132 subjects were mentioned, not counting three sets of appendices. The Hints for Students (1892) also undertook in Pelonicus men to guide the student along the proper path of health, study, dress, and conduct. Tobacco and alcohol were especially warned against. Earlier sets of rules had included items on pistol carrying, frequenting of saloons, and billiard and gambling houses. All were less a restriction than may be supposed. Dean Clark, to whom was attributed the authorship of every shalt-not rule after 1901, was the perennial subject of lampoons fostered by campus vits. Indeed he drew as much attention as all the rest of the faculty together in the skits of the Union operettas, the Gridiron banquets, and the Illini roast sections. But T. A., for all his ludicrously portrayed jouets with the and other evils, was popular. Though a few ansered, the majority respected him for his willingness to listen to their


troubles, to visit them when sick, and to give practical advice. His
"Sunday Night O’Clocks" and other short sermons in the Daily Illini and
syndicated to many papers of the country were widely enjoyed bits
of homely philosophy. It was his lot as dean to be the victim of car-
icature and jest, but when it was reported in 1909 that he might leave
the University to take an attractive position at Leland Stanford a mass
meeting was called to celebrate his decision to stay. In doing him
honor, two thousand men were of one mind—and of great appetite, con-
suming a thousand doughnuts, 10,000 ginger cakes, five barrels of apples,
1,500 cigars, 2,500 cigarettes, and 100 gallons of cider.

The Illini, which preserved much of the Clark lore, grew to be a fat
volume of seven and eight hundred pages. The profusion of illustration
increased with the years, commemorating personalities and events in
half-tone and etching in place of the class historian’s sketch. Essays
vanished, their place taken by the roast section making sport of the
foibles of campus mortals. Of this the students wanted more, and a
monthly humor magazine, The Siren, was founded in 1911. In both
publications wit of a kind flourishing in vaudeville and smart magazines
triumphed over the sentimentality of earlier years, which in its most
syrupy form found a more natural outlet in college and fraternity songs.

Almost all the songs—which Illinois chimes were written in the per-
iod 1898–1910 and are the legacy of the yearning for conspicuous tradi-
tions which characterized the new campus life of the Draper and early
James years. Gregory and Root’s inaugural anthem had none of the suc-
cess of the latter’s great Civil War songs and had fallen into disuse;
Walter Howe Jones’ "By Thy River Gently Flowing," used as a school song
after Jones became director of the School of Music, was tuneful but not
especially appropriate, as it was a state song. F. G. Carnahan, ’92.

and W. L. Steele, '06, were the first to attempt an original lyric, a
"University Song" for the Harper inauguration, but it lacked vitality.

Bullard's (178) and Lawrence's "Grand Illinois"—

In breadth and strength, with worthy training
For mind to plan, and hand to do,
Thou standest high among all others,
Grand Semi-Verse-ty and true, Illinois... 132

written about 1903, was better but not quite a success. With few ex-
ceptions the Watchula League songbook of 1903, the first on the campus,
was largely a compilation of borrowed and adapted songs. The first
tune to catch on that had much originality was a revised and adapted
version of Thatcher Guild's unpublished and unsung undergraduate attempt
to write a song at Brown University. A few changes made it the familiar

We're loyal to you, Illinois,
We're Orange and Blue, Illinois... 133

It was long, and difficult to sing, but it lived to become the official
Illinois song.

Others tried their hand. A contest was held in 1907, but the re-
sult was disappointing. Several alma mater's were written; it was in-
evitable that at least one of them should be to the tune of "Annie Lisle,"
that evergreen ancestor of a dozen or fifteen college and university
songs including Cornell's "Cayuga's Waters." The "Sunset Song" was
dedicated in 1910 to the alumni by the authors, Colvin, Briley, and Sch-
reiber, but although it had some promise it has not survived. Home-
coming having proved no inspiration, campus lyricists turned to the
Union operettas. Two songs forming part of a script that never was com-
pleted for the first Union contest oddly became the traditional tunes
for which Illinois was yearning. One was "Oskee-Wow-Wow" and the other
"Hail to the Orange," both written by Harold W. Hill, '11, and Howard
131. Proceedings and Addresses at the Inauguration of Andrew Sloan
     Director... 51.

132. Willabelle Wilson, '08, and Louise Shipman, '08, comps.,
     University of Illinois Song Book. (New York, 1912), 26.

133. JAW, 2 (June, 1931), 369; (July, 1931), 458.
R. Green, '12. The latter was almost lost by default when the local publisher rejected it. A revised version was first heard as Sigma Alpha Epsilon's "Hail to the Purple," but the SAE quartette also used the original words at Post-Exam Jubilees and taught them to the glee club, who in turn gave it to the Student in general. The tune was simpler than the "Loyalty," and lived, in spite of (but maybe because of) the rapid words:

Hail to the Orange
Hail to the Blue,
Hail Alma Mater
Ever so true!
We love no other,
So let our motto be,
Victory! Illinois, Varsity.

—and unconsciously audiences began to make it a hat's-off song, as they still do, though rather uncertainly, today. Hill and Green wrote others, sung in their day, but none hit the mark nearer than this, their shortest and at first almost unaccepted one.

Once Illinois gained its singing traditions, the last act of seniors before parting from the scenes of four years' memories was to sing the old songs. The spring finals over, all but the seniors left quickly, and even before they lived out their commencement week the campus took on its quiet summer atmosphere. Beginning on Sunday afternoon with the baccalaureate sermon's sober note, the commencement "week" awakened many memories. Monday brought class exercises, the class historian, prophet, the valedictorian, and salutatorian. The much-scarred and carved wooden class hatchet which had passed from class to class since '76 was handed over to the keeping of a representative of the juniors with a mock-serious oration of the virtues to be maintained. Then came the open-air alumni luncheon. In the afternoon were the band concert and class reunions, and the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi addresses. Tuesday
234. *JAH*, 7 (July, 1929), 496.
was given over to the official alumni meeting, and the presidential reception for graduates, alumni, and other friends.

Wednesday began with a senior breakfast, a final class function. By nine on the Library steps were busy preparations for the parade. By ten the bugle officers, visitors, faculty, and seniors were solemnly marching behind the band, once up Burrill Avenue to the old Armory, then in later years down the middle of the quadrangle to the Auditorium, and more recently to the Field. Between long lines of spectators. The classes of 1906-1909, 1914, and 1918 heard foreign ambassadors give the main address Count von Spee-Sternberg (Germany), Viscount Bryce (Great Britain), Wu Ting Fang (China), Baron Takehira (Japan), and Rosulo Nacn (Argentina). The bestowal of diplomas followed, each year a longer ceremony than the one before. Once more the procession formed to return to the Library lawn where seniors joined to raise the familiar strains of "Auld Lang Syne," "By Thy Rivers" and "Loyalty."

Departing classes usually noted that the campus was not the same as it had been four years before. The very obviousness of the thought did not prevent its annual repetition; the students between 1890 and 1918 never ceased marveling how complete the changes had been. One writer, in 1919, saw this over the longer span of years and outlined an analysis which is still the inevitable conclusion:

The old place is not the same. Old landmarks have disappeared and new buildings have been built as the student body has grown from the three or four hundreds of the eighties to the seven thousands of today. And with this transformation of the physical character has come inevitably a different spirit about the campus and changes in the tribal customs of Illini. Our rapid growth has allowed no time for the mellowing of traditions such as give atmosphere to older schools. 135

Whether an institution bending most of its energy toward the daily changing demands of a vigorous and varied society could ever mellow and gather
ness was likely to be answered in the negative. The University was too much a part of society itself to nurture a life peculiar to itself. Institutions at the frontiers of the intellect, like those on a geographic frontier, do not stand still. Under Draper and James the University had determined that its place was to be at the forefront of advancing knowledge, with demands as practical as those of the pioneers who colonize the land.