Freshman Turns Cynic

Polly Burbank

The purpose of this bit of writing is to aid future Butler freshmen by suggestions and instructions in the art of surviving Registration Day gracefully.

To begin with, each student should plan to send in his application to the school at the earliest possible moment and thus obtain a low registration number. All high school seniors should be notified of the advisability of this step immediately. Then everyone could have a low registration number.

For the process of actual registration, the student is advised:

1. To have a hearty breakfast followed by a shot of adrenalin.
2. To wear sturdy walking shoes.
3. To have with him a pen and two ink erasers.
4. To bring twice as much money as he thinks he will need.

At the appointed time, the eager Freshman will appear at the Field House. He will enter what appears to be an obstacle course designed for the Marine Corps, but which is, in reality, a system planned to expedite registration. At this point, the befuddled Freshman, if he has not the blind instinct of an Alaskan trapper, should have a pocket compass in readiness. During the next three hours, he is expected to trot submissively from one desk to another answering questions and filling out forms. Pictures for identification cards are taken at the last possible moment, and for this reason the student should anticipate having the dazed, debauched look of a confirmed alcoholic.

When at last the weary Freshman staggers outdoors into the sunshine of an otherwise perfect day, he will find himself a little changed by the harrowing experience he has just had. Some of the happy innocence and enthusiasm of the Freshman are gone. He is already along a four year road to the understandable cynicism and languor of the Senior.