

Library

# THE CONCORDIENSIS

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF UNION COLLEGE

VOLUME XLI

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918

NO. 72

## TWO FATALITIES IN CAMPUS CONFLAGRATION

### SQUAD LEAVES TOWN FOR TWO HARD GAMES

Bad Weather Has Made Work Difficult.

#### COLUMBIA OPPONENT

Coach Tells Team Present Arrangement is Not Permanent.

The baseball squad left the campus at 6:45 last night for Albany where it embarked on the "Trojan" for New York. This afternoon the season opened at the Morningside grounds against Columbia, whose varsity has played several successful games this spring. If the Garnet comes off with a victory against her first contender there should be cause for rejoicing.

Weather conditions Thursday again prevented the intended short practice before the start was made. Consequently the last thorough workout was held Monday, with only short practices on Tuesday and Wednesday after military drill. The week previous to the opening of the season in other years has been one of the busiest of the season, but abnormal conditions this year have rendered it impossible to devote the usual amount of time to practice.

After the game this afternoon the players will be put to bed in preparation for another just as hard tomorrow morning with N. Y. U. Probably by that time Coach Tamsett will make some changes in the line-up after he has observed the squad under fire.

In a short talk to the squad during the week the coach has tried to impress upon the men that the fact that certain players have been allowed to make this trip does not of necessity appoint them as permanent fixtures on the varsity. Time has been short and the picking of men for these games had to be done more or less by inspection. There may be many changes in the line-up before the end of the season.

The coach gave out the following probable line-up yesterday afternoon. The players are named in order of batting: G. Brucker, shortstop; Fancher, second; Capt. Peaslee, first; Jamieson, left field; Hochuli, right field; De Groot, center field; Mallory, third; Wittner, catcher; Laskowski, Hughes, J. Brucker, Beaver, pitchers.

Columbia's probable line-up has been given as: Frich, third; Lester, center field; Houlihan, left field; Ackerman, catcher; Capt. Bounaguro, shortstop; Houck, second; Goodman, first; Uris, rightfield, and Koenig, Farrel or Luber, pitcher.

### COLLEGE MEN NEEDED TO BUILD SHIPS IN TIME

Failure Means Defeat, Says McKibben.

#### HARD WORK AHEAD

Students Must Grit Teeth With Others to Finish the Job.

It was a new way to do one's bit that Mr. Frank McKibben, of the United States Shipping Board, suggested to nearly two hundred students in the chapel Wednesday night. It was that of helping Uncle Sam fulfill his shipbuilding program of 5,000,000 tons of shipping this year. Speaking on the subject "Can America Finish Those Ships in Time?", Mr. McKibben declared that, outside of actual enlistment and farm work, the most valuable thing which a college man could do for his country was to help build ships. America, he believes, will finish the ships in time, but Americans, especially college men, must grit their teeth and put their shoulders to the wheel if lines of communication to the million men which Uncle Sam will have in France within the year are to be maintained.

Mr. McKibben was introduced by President Richmond, who outlined the speaker's purpose in appearing before the students and said that the latter's stop in Schenectady was only one of a series of halts in college towns. "Unless we can have ships, we cannot send men," said Dr. Richmond. "And unless we can send men, munitions, food and supplies, we cannot win the war. The consequences of such a happening do not have to be pressed home to your minds. In Mr. McKibben you are listening to a speaker well qualified to present his theme. He is warmly welcomed by Union College."

In beginning his lecture, Mr. McKibben said that he had two purposes in mind, first, to give his hearers a general idea of America's shipbuilding program, and second, to impress upon them the vital importance of the building of ships. "But do not construe my remarks in such a way as to think that I advise you to leave college to help build ships," said Mr. McKibben. "Stay in college; stay and do your best. It is when you graduate and leave college that the government will need your services in its ship-building program. Think twice before engaging in one of the non-essential industries, for America needs the energy and brains of her college men in one of her most serious tasks." Mr. McKibben.

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### Grandson of Prof. Hoffman and Nurse Suffocate In Bed; Two Others Hurt

#### FRESHMEN AID IN RESCUE

Mother of Little Wentworth Micks Makes Futile Efforts to Reach Baby's Side—Nurse Found With Arm Across Crib.

Two lives were the toll taken by a fire of unknown origin which totally destroyed the house occupied by Prof. Frank S. Hoffman and Dr. Frank C. Barnes early this morning. Starting in Prof. Hoffman's study on the second floor, the fire had made great headway before being discovered, and, despite the frantic efforts of two Freshmen, who attempted to save Prof. Hoffman's three-year-old grandson, the child and his nurse, Alice Sullivan, 21 year old, were suffocated in their beds. The tragedy, which was the saddest the college has ever seen, plunged the campus into gloom today.

Although Wentworth Micks, Prof. Hoffman's grandson, was known to have perished in the smoke which must have smothered him soon after the fire began, it was at first thought that Miss Sullivan had escaped. Later, however, the nurse could not be located, and at five o'clock this morning, when the salvage crew of the firedepartment began to search in the hot debris for the body of little Wentworth, her's was also found in her bed near the baby's crib, one arm thrown across it as though to protect the three-year-old from harm. She, too, must have been mercifully overcome by smoke before she was fully awake.

The injured are Miss Mary Leonard, 50 years old, cook for the Hoffmans, who was cut about the scalp, lost most of her teeth, and is suffering from shock as the result of a leap from the third story window of the room where she slept; and Mrs. Ransom R. Micks, burned about the face and arms while engaged in waking the inmates of the house. Miss Leonard was taken to the Ellis Hospital, where it was said this morning that her injuries were not serious. Mrs. Micks, who is prostrated by the death of her little son, is confined to her bed at President Richmond's house. To her presence of mind is probably due the saving of several lives.

Beside Mrs. Micks, there were other heroes of the fire. Two Freshmen are carrying singed eye-brows and smoke-caked lungs this morning as the result of two unsuccessful attempts to reach the inner parts of the house. One of them, Alexander Stewart, of Rochester, was at one time nearly overcome by smoke while attempting to rescue the child.

Gingold was one of the first to discover the fire. Returning from his home in Albany at about 1:20 this morning, he noticed the flames, which

had already burst through the roof of the shed in the rear of the house. After turning in one of the many alarms which were then bringing several fire trucks to the scene, Gingold hurried to the Old Gym dormitory, where he awakened Stewart. When both arrived in front of the building, the flames were coming into the front rooms and the Hoffman-Micks families were at the west windows. Several of the women were preparing to jump. Stewart and Gingold, who realized that a leap from the high second story windows must certainly result in serious injury, called to the frightened women not to jump, but to wait for them to come up from the inside. Breaking in the front door, the boys rushed upstairs but were immediately driven down again by the flames and smoke. Gingold then boosted Stewart to the roof of the front porch and was in turn dragged up by the later. The Hoffmans and Micks were then aided in reaching the roof and helped down the ladder which was soon set up by the firemen. Mrs. Micks, who had been unable to reach her child, was making desperate entreaties to be allowed to go back in search of him. It was then that Stewart resolved to plunge again into the burning building in the hope of reaching the third floor room where little Wentworth was sleeping. He penetrated only a few yards; opening a door, a billow of smoke and flame rushed out and forced him to abandon his quest. Almost overcome by the smoke, Stewart returned to the window and made his way to the ground.

The Hoffman and Micks families immediately went to President Richmond's house, where Prof. Hoffman and Mrs. Micks are confined to their beds today, suffering from shock. Dr. Barnes carried Mrs. Barnes to safety

(Continued on page 4)

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918.

The sudden bereavement that Dr. Frank S. Hoffman and Mrs. Hoffman have suffered, has thrown the entire college into the deepest gloom and mourning. The occurrence is the saddest which we have experienced in many a year, and its memory will be hard to erase. The courageous attempts of several members of the Freshman class to avert the tragedy will illumine a page in the records of Union College, and though vain, will ever remain as an example of true heroism. The student body and all those connected with the college extend their sincerest condolences to Dr. and Mrs. Hoffman and trust that they may be enabled to bear up courageously in this their time of tribulation and sorrow.

### Schenectady Saved.

Great Moral Victory! Schenectady Made Safe for Drunkards! Personal Liberty Vindicated!

Why these headlines did not appear in yesterday's Schenectady papers was a source of considerable surprise to any dismally defeated "Dry," who may have occupied one of the seats in Proctor's Theatre at about eight-thirty, on the night of the local option election. In the middle of the

performance, the wonderful gloriously intoxicating news was flashed on the screen that Heaven had vouchsafed Schenectady's preservation for at least another three years, alcoholically speaking. The detestable Drys had been downed! And what an ear-splitting applau-u-s-s-e, what a lung-rending shout greeted the blessed announcement. Never was there such band-braying, such "Euhoe-ing" in Proctor's theatre since its opening night. If we had not seen the announcement, we might have thought, at least, that the Kaiser had begged for mercy and that the war was over. Instead, it was merely a Bacchanalianesque celebration, by a crowd of misguided citizens, who were rejoicing over the fact that the streets of their already delightful metropolis would yet be ornamented with booze-soaked, stenching ports-of-call. What a pitiful contrast, we thought, to the carefully correct silence which attends the playing of our national anthem in that very theatre.

A great victory, indeed! And yet, why should they not raise the roof? Has not the excise revenue been saved to the city? Has not each taxpayer been saved the expenditure of an additional thirty cents in taxes? Think of it. Thirty cents a year saved,—and in these hard times! That precious thirty cents must be saved, the city must be "wet," for our hard-working bartenders need their jobs; our "personal liberty, the inherent right of every American citizen," must be vindicated, our German-controlled liquor interests must be preserved!

And preserved they are! "After laying out all that money and energy don't we deserve a victory," ask the winsome saloon-owners, wistfully pouting their dainty ambrosial lips. Yes, surely! Bribing landlords to intimidate poor rent-payers by treating increases in rents, driving automobiles to convey momentarily valuable and beloved voters to the polls, to do their bit, is truly noble endeavor and should assuredly receive its just recompense.

Jupiter Pluvius sent you rain, on the evening of the local option election, oh, saloon-keepers. You foolishly, superstitiously took this as an omen of Schenectady's alcoholic wetness. But, not so fast! All omens have double significance. And the other, the true meaning of this omen, is the tears you will shed three years hence when your empty, transient victory will have resolved itself into crushing defeat. H. E. R.

### CREEL AND COMMITTEE PLAN COLLEGE BUREAU

The representatives of thirteen eastern college newspapers met at the Columbia University club in New York City last Saturday in order to form a co-operative organization among the college papers throughout

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the country with the war publicity bureau at Washington. Pi Delta Epsilon, the national journalistic fraternity summoned college newspapers of the country into a war council. Through a request by Mr. George Creel, of the Committee on Public Information, a committee of 5 was appointed for the purpose of discussing plans for the co-operation of the college papers with the committee on public information. After conferring with Carl Beyer, Mr. Creel's representative, it was planned to create a special department in the bureau of public information for the distribution of patriotic news articles to the college press.

### BALDWIN WILL GIVE THIRD TALK MONDAY.

Mr. A. A. Baldwin, a member of the Foreign Department of the General Electric Company, will address the Senior Economics class Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Mr. Baldwin has already delivered two interesting lectures to this class. His topic will be "Foreign Exchange." All students interested are invited to hear the lecture, which will be given in Room 103, General Engineering Building.

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## UNION MEN MAY GO TO SUMMER CAMP

New Data Is Ray of Hope to Cadets.

**CAMPS OPEN MAY 15TH**

Union on List of Colleges Which May Send Candidates.

Publication yesterday of data regarding the series of officers' training camps which the government will maintain this summer and which will open at various points in the United States on May 15th caused hope to rise once more in the breasts of members of the Union R. O. T. C. who are of the required age for entering the camps. On the list of colleges of New York State which may send candidates to the camps, Union is one of the only three. The other two colleges are Columbia and Cornell. It is still a matter of doubt, however, whether any of the members of the R. O. T. C. here can satisfy all of the requirements. The doubtful point is the number of hours of study on military subjects which the local men have had since January 1st, 1917. The required number is 300. If the hours which the battalion spent at drill last spring are allowed to be counted, there may be opportunity for a number of candidates to go from Union, but if these hours of unofficial drill cannot be counted, the would-be candidates will not be able to muster enough hours to satisfy the government requirements. The difficulty will probably be cleared up and decision in the case rendered either by the college committee on military affairs or by Col. Goldman.

After giving a list of the requirements for entrance to the camps, the government specifications issued yesterday read as follows:

"Any men with qualifications set out herein, not now in the military service, who wish to take advantage of this opportunity to try for a commission as second lieutenant in the line of the army, should apply immediately to the educational institutions they attended, and should take particular care to follow accurately the method of application prescribed herein.

"The training schools will be conducted in specified divisions. Two per cent. of the enlisted personnel of the divisions and detached units of the regular army, National Guard, and national army, excepting the coast artillery and the various staff corps, will be designated to attend such schools.

"The men who successfully complete the course and are so recommended will be listed as eligible for commissions as second lieutenants, and will be commissioned, as vacancies occur, in the infantry, cavalry and field artillery."

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## DANCING TO BE FREE AFTER "FULL HOUSE"

First Comers to Get Best Seats, Decides the Manager.

There will be no extra charge for admission to the dance which will follow the presentation of the Dramatic Club's farce, "A Full House", on April 27th, according to an announcement made yesterday by the management of the club. Pantin's orchestra, which has been engaged to play for the dance will also furnish music during the play. The management also gives assurances that the play will be over by ten-thirty, thus giving lovers of the dance plenty of opportunity to engage in the pastime before the evening is over.

Students regularly enrolled in the college will be charged no admission to the gym. on the night of the presentation of the play, but their friends and others will be charged an admission fee of one dollar. Difficulty of properly numbering the tickets has caused the management to abandon the idea of having reserved seats at "A Full House". Apparently, the good seats will be obtained by the early comers.

The caste of the play will be given a vacation over the week-end on account of the fact that several of its members will be out of town with the baseball team. The next rehearsal will be on Monday, and it will be followed by others every day next week. The first dress rehearsal will probably be held Friday afternoon, the day before the presentation of the play. Faculty members who have been present at some recent rehearsals expressed themselves as highly convinced of the ability of the caste to please an audience.

sions as second lieutenants, and will be commissioned, as vacancies occur, in the infantry, cavalry and field artillery."

It is not known whether or not the fact of Union's being on the approved list of colleges from which students may be sent to the camps is the result of the inspection recently made by Lieut. Loring, acting inspector-general. At any rate, battalion members who read the government specifications as published in the New York papers yesterday were highly pleased at the news of their R. O. T. C. being included on the short list of three colleges receiving the distinction of sending appointees to the officer camps.

Amherst's commencement program will be much the same this year as last, except for the substitution of a patriotic rally for the customary lawn fete on Senior night.

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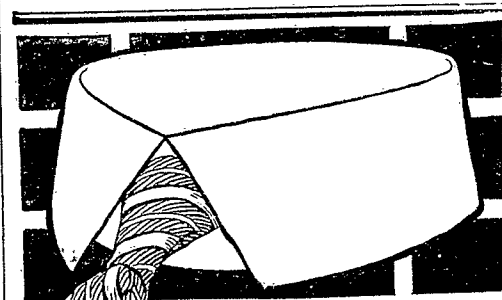
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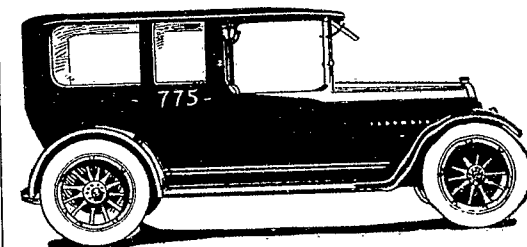
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## TWO FATALITIES IN CAMPUS CONFLAGRATION

(Continued from Page 1)

at about the time when Stewart and Gingold were forced to turn back down the front stairs. Both the secretary and his wife took refuge at the home of Dr. Ellery nearby.

By the time that that Companies 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Schenectady Fire Department reached the scene of the fire, the building was doomed. The firemen were in time to aid in saving the Hoffman family. The flames had died down by four o'clock under the tons of water which were poured upon it by the firemen, and shortly afterward the salvage crew were able to begin the search of the ruins for the bodies.

Nothing was saved by the occupants of the building except the scanty clothing which they wore. Among the lost property were the libraries and records of both Dr. Barnes and Prof Hoffman. The loss is, of course, irreparable.

A pathetic fact became known this morning when it was learned that Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Micks and their child had planned to return yesterday to their home in Seneca Falls, but decided to postpone their return until today in order to see Miss Grace Hoffman, daughter of Prof. Hoffman, who arrived yesterday from New York on a visit.

The house destroyed last night was built in 1872 for President Eliphalet Nott Potter shortly after his election the year before. The erection was made necessary because of the fact that the widow of Dr. Nott was still alive and living in the old president's house, the one now occupied by President Richmond. The Potter

house was occupied after President Potter's resignation, by several professors in turn. Prof. Hoffman moved into it in 1885 and had lived there ever since. Before Prof. Hoffman came to Union, the house had been partitioned off into two apartments. In the late nineties, the local chapter of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity occupied the north side of the building, and Dr. Barnes moved in shortly after the building of the first Phi Gamma Delta House.

## COLLEGE MEN NEEDED TO BUILD SHIPS IN TIME

(Continued from page 1)

Kibben had no desire to side-step the issue. He did not minimize the danger to America of the failure of her ship-building program. "There are two alternatives," he declared; "it is more merchant ships or defeat.

The five million ton ship-building program for this year includes, according to the speaker, 573 steel vessels and 500 wooden and composite ships. An idea of the magnitude of the task of building one of them can be gained by reflecting upon the fact that, in the average 10,000 ton vessel 650,000 rivets are required. "Set your boys," said Mr. McKibben, "and college-trained minds to work, devise some way of fastening ship plates together without the use of rivets. Nothing I can think of would do more toward the winning of the war."

Ships are now building at Boston, Newark, Newburg on the Hudson, Philadelphia, and at several points on the Pacific coast. The enormous Hog Island yard, where 50 ways are soon to be in service, is situated near Philadelphia. The speaker next explained the difference be-

tween standardized and fabricated ships. Standardized ships are all of the same pattern; their parts are interchangeable. Fabricated ships are standardized and something more. The steel plates and many of the other parts of the fabricated ships are made at widely separated points in the United States and are merely assembled at the yards.

At the close of his lecture, the speaker outlined methods whereby students wishing to help in Uncle Sam's ship-building job might get in touch with ship-building companies in various parts of the country. About forty students stayed for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the plans. Many of the yards will take men for summer work. A number handed in their names to Mr. McKibben as being willing to be placed on a list of volunteers for shipyard service. An opportunity is still open to get in touch with Mr. McKibben. Any student seriously considering work in a shipyard in the near future should write F. P. McKibben, South Bethlehem, Pa. An applicant should give: Name, home address, age, height, weight, nationality, have you any physical defects? Name of college. Course in college. Class in college. When can you report for work? Do you wish permanent or temporary work? Locality of shipyard preferred: Boston, Staten Island, Newark, Newburgh, Philadelphia, Great Lakes. Give brief memorandum of your practical experience out of college. Send to F. P. McKibben, South Bethlehem, Pa.



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