

# THE BEAVER

## Some Notes on Student Life

EACH OF THE STUDENT HOUSES can boast of its own distinguishing customs and traditions, but no other has so consistently maintained a tradition to compare with the firm hold Fleming House has had upon the two important interhouse athletic trophies: the Interhouse Trophy, and the Varsity Rating Trophy.

The Interhouse Trophy is awarded at the end of each school year to the house that has totaled the greatest number of points during that year in intramural athletic competition, consisting of nine sports: baseball, cross country, basketball, softball, track, tennis, swimming, touch football, and volleyball. The points are awarded on the basis of the final standing of each house's teams in all of the nine sports. For example, track, which is considered a major sport, earns the winning house 25 trophy points, while the other houses receive 20, 15, 10, and 5 points, respectively, depending upon their performance in the interhouse track meet. Volleyball, on the

other hand, is considered a minor sport, and earns 15, 12, 9, 6, and 3 points, respectively.

Always before, Fleming has succeeded in amassing the greatest number of points, either by outscoring its nearest competitor by a margin of almost 25%, as last year, or by the hairbreadth of a few points, as three years ago. But this spring it is mathematically impossible for Fleming to add its name beneath the unbroken column of seventeen monotonously uniform "FLEMING'S" opposite the numerals ranging from "1933-1934" down to "1949-1950" on the Interhouse Trophy.

The prospect of retaining the Varsity Rating Trophy, which has been won by Fleming every year since 1940, when it was donated by the Alumni Association, offers little consolation, because the Fleming House tradition has always included winning both trophies. This latter trophy is awarded to the house which during the school year has furnished the greatest share of participants in Tech's intercollegiate teams. Points are awarded on the basis of the importance of each sport, and the status of the athletes (freshmen get reduced credit).

Throop Club, the off-campus organization with a status equal to that of a student house in athletic and many other matters, is the winner of the Interhouse Trophy this year. The disruption of the Fleming tradition is happily regarded by all concerned, except Fleming, of course. To the other houses, Fleming's loss of the Interhouse Trophy is the prelude to a new era in interhouse relations. The significance of the change will not be fully realized, however, until next fall when the houses turn their individual propaganda campaigns upon the freshmen during the rushing period. Fleming's reputation has rested upon its spirit as exemplified by its achievements in athletics. But all may well be for the best, for while fighting to regain possession of both trophies, Fleming will undoubtedly increase its prestige by emphasizing other achievements indicative of its spirit.

### The Competitive Spirit

The history of the trophies is misleading if it suggests that competitive spirit in interhouse athletics has been dampened by Fleming's consistent record of winning. Actually, the race for the Interhouse Trophy is one of the focal points for interhouse spirit. For example, the noontime serenade of the Dabney House "Orchestra" in Fleming Court on the day of an important athletic contest between the houses serves to intensify the rivalry which exists between them.



*The Interhouse Trophy: at long last—after seventeen years—it leaves Fleming House for Throop Club.*

Recently dinner guests in one of the houses were faced with the embarrassing treat of chocolate sundae-desserts while their drooling hosts watched with the envy peculiar to members of a house who had lost desserts they had bet on a swimming meet. Betting desserts on athletic contests is a custom which cannot fail to draw the interest of even the most apathetic residents of the houses to the outcome of their games.

Despite a lack of such seemingly important facilities as a gymnasium (not to mention a swimming pool), the opportunities available to undergraduates are abundant. Beside the nine interhouse sports and eleven varsity and freshmen intercollegiate sports, there are two tennis tournaments, an interclass track meet, and various interhouse contests for possession of the Discobolus, a challenge trophy.

### Annual Athletic Report

The entire athletic program furnishes an unending supply of names, numbers, and statistical work for the Athletic Office and the elected athletic managers of the houses. The summary of all these efforts is released by the Athletic Office in the form of an annual report on the athletic program. The ten-page report covering the academic year 1949-50 could well draw the envy of other schools where our scores in intercollegiate games and meets might not. Following are some excerpts for 1949-50, based on an undergraduate enrollment of 681:

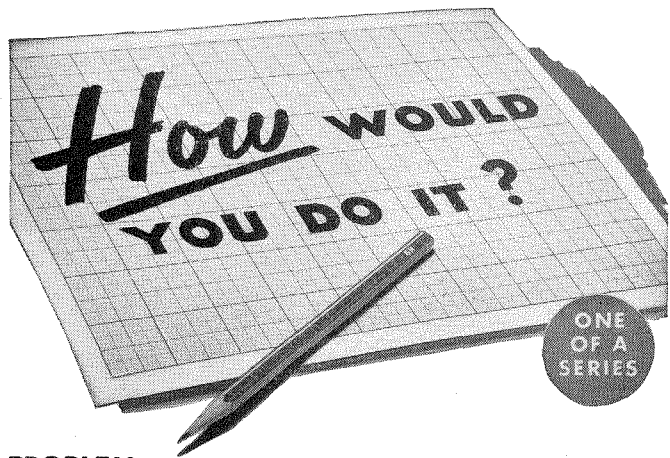
1. Number of men entering into competition 57.71%
2. Number of men not competing.....42.29%
3. Number of men entering into both Intramural & Intercollegiate competition.....26.87%
4. Number of men having Intramural, but no Intercollegiate competition.....18.74%
5. Number of men having Intercollegiate, but no Intramural competition.....12.04%
6. Total number of men having Intramural competition .....45.67%
7. Total number of men having Intercollegiate competition .....38.91%
8. Men excused from Physical Education....33.89%

Figures for the freshmen were even more heartening:

1. Number of men entering into competition .....68.90%
2. Total number of men having Intramural competition .....50.61%
3. Total number of men having Intercollegiate competition .....61.59%
4. Men excused from Physical Education.... 5.49%

From the undergraduate's point of view, this well-rounded athletic program more than compensates for our lack of marked achievement in some intercollegiate sports.

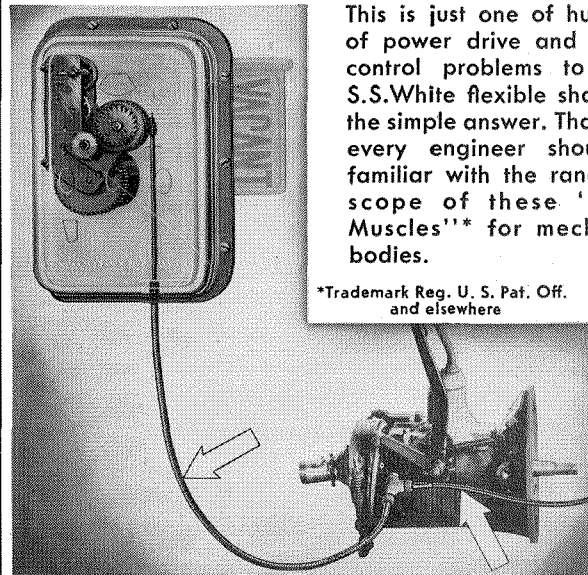
—Al Haber '53



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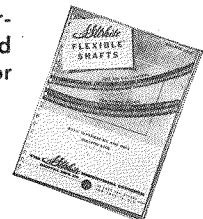
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