

# The Cornell Daily Sun

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## The Calendar.... Advance it? [ARTICLE]

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### The Calendar . . .

## Advance It?

What would happen if the fall term ended before Christmas? For one thing, the term would have to start immediately after Labor Day. For another, the spring term would probably end two or three weeks earlier than it does now. What differences would such action make? And what makes the possibilities worth considering?

Consideration is worthwhile because the idea for just such a calendar change has already been heard from within the University Administration. The idea is one of the many changes, both great and small, which are considered almost daily by the Administration. It may never get any further than the conversation stage, but its appearance does provide some opportunity for comment on the whole issue of academic calendar.

\* \* \*

Officially, the **spring term** of 1962 started Monday, but for those involved in rushing, this is a myth. Among undergraduates, two-thirds of the men and half the women are involved in the annual replenishment rites, and few of them will be able to do much studying until next week. Even next week will be a light week for studying, because of informal rushing and even more informal recuperation. The rushing intrusion, coupled with the rigors of final examinations, leaves in many students little enthusiasm for the second term.

If the mid-term break were to coincide with Christ-

mas recess, a substantial vacation would separate first term exams and the beginning of the second term. And the vacation might be scheduled to eliminate the present week-long conflict between rushing and second-term classes, provided rushing were telescoped into a seven-day period devoted to nothing but rushing.

This could be scheduled immediately after the new year began, and those not involved in rushing could simply continue their vacation. There are presently 15 rushing dates, plus contact periods, on the men's calendar. The women have 10 dates in addition to the open houses. It seems sure that the houses could complete their selection processes as well in a totally free week as they could in four free days and five or six days in conflict with classes.

\* \* \*

**But would they?** Shortening of the vacation by a full week might prove too high a price to pay for rushing in the reckoning of many freshmen. And fraternity men themselves could well prove less than enthusiastic at trading a full week of nominally free time for a trying week of rushing.

\* \* \*

**While rushing immediately** after New Year's Day would eliminate actual conflict with classes, the after-effects of classes would still be evident in both fraternity/sorority members and pledges as they began classes perhaps 24 hours after pledging.

Some advantages of advancing the academic year would be felt by seekers of summer jobs, who would be available for work about two weeks before students at other institutions. However, students who return to campus for orientation would find themselves forced to leave summer jobs in August.

Calendar change of the sort outlined has several advantages, but most of them have concomitant disadvantages. And some unwanted shortening of the actual terms would be almost inevitable, unless examinations could be completed within very few days. Further, there are students who use the Christmas Recess as a opportunity to concentrate on long reading lists or major papers. But the idea of a long

vacation without crushing post-vacation responsibilities is most inviting.

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