

Reporter Seeks the Skeletons In Sixth Floor Library Stacks

By BOB BUSHNELL

Why aren't students allowed in the sixth floor stacks? What is being hidden, or is a Women's Board rule responsible? Is it really true that the top floor of the libe is loaded with pornography? To find the answers to these questions I interviewed Librarian Julian Fowler last week. "Where," I asked, "are the skeletons in the sixth floor stacks? What's up there?"

The answer was simple: Everything. The sixth stacks are the attic of the library. Side by side are kept some of the most valuable and some of the most worthless volumes in the library, along with knickknacks, pamphlets, files, pictures, and a tombstone. Being off limits and inaccessible to students, the sixth floor stacks serve first to provide protective storage and second to limit the circulation of certain books.

Normal Material

However, by far the greater part of the sixth stacks contain, although different, relatively 'normal' material: the "numbered set of U.S. Documents," the pamphlet file, sets of limited editions, and "just plain junk" that would otherwise be cluttering up the downstairs. Only the southeast corner is really unique.

In that part small wire cages line the passageway like cells along a prison corridor. In each cell are locked shelves of imprisoned books, all catalogued, but restricted in circulation. Here reside all American books published before 1820, all European books antedating 1750.

College Documents

Here too are the binders of Masters theses and prize essays. Also stored are the non-circulating copies of books by graduates and alumni, and the "sacred set of Col-

CHAIRMEN TO MEET

Mock Convention delegation chairmen will meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Mock Convention office to discuss the assessment and collection of delegate dues.

lege documents," those bound catalogues, President's reports, Yeoman's, and Hi-O-Hi's preserved for posterity. One also finds here old town and College records; ledgers, membership lists, and deans' books.

As well there are English translations of Greek and Latin classics suppressed "three or four professors ago," and never since removed. And then, of course, the "sex books." Most are innocuous, the Psychology of Sex, for example, spending half of its time

in the reserve reading room; but some, improperly used, would be damaging. Thus as a rule all such books are "sixth-floored."

The Kinsey reports, however, are there for another reason. "If we put them downstairs," volunteered Mr. Fowler, "they'd be stolen in a minute."

Stone Slab

By far the most interesting cell only incidentally contains books. In this cell are stacks of letter files of men we know, if at all, only as namesakes of buildings: Fairchild, Cox, Monroe, Wright, Finney, Burton. Here also is the material compiled by Prof. Robert Fletcher in writing his history of the College, diaries willed to the College, class picture albums, even some old Edison cylinder records, with recordings of early Musical Union performances.

To top it all off, there is in one corner a large stone slab bearing these words: "Here lies a fugitive slave orphan . . ." That's the closest I came to a skeleton.

HONOR COMMITTEE

Applications for positions on the 1956-57 Honor Committee are now open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Anyone interested should contact Marty Roess at Keep, or other members of the Committee before March 23.