

THE COLLEGIAN

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Friday, May 19, 1944

All editorials represent the opinions of the writer whose initials are signed to it, and not the opinion of the corporate Collegian staff. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

Law Or Outlaws?

Last weekend several upperclassmen, some of them members of Druids, took freshman law-making into their own hands. Acting on their own initiative, these men shaved the heads of two freshmen, whom they believed had been dealt with too leniently by Tribunal!

By this act they revived a problem that was presumably settled about 20 years ago!

The problem, which first arose in 1920, questioned the right of any upperclassmen to administer freshman justice by means of hazing! For five years this problem was juggled about, and was finally settled by the verdict that "Tribunal alone has the power to establish and enforce College customs for freshmen."

Last weekend, Druids members violated this rule by taking it upon themselves to "administer freshman justice."

When an unauthorized body in any society usurps the power of an official group, the foundations of that society are shaken because the people are defying the authorities of law and order! This fact is undeniable and holds true, no matter what were the motives behind the usurpation of power!

In this case the motives might have been highly commendable!

When Druids reorganized recently, they expressed themselves to the effect that one of their aims was to revive Penn State spirit. Specifically, they were going to tackle the freshman problem. This, in itself, was commendable, for the noticeable lack of class spirit among the freshmen was admittedly a problem which needed tackling.

Unfortunately, their expressed aims went the way of most good intentions.

Granted that head-shaving in itself may not be such a dire catastrophe. Granted that it is an accepted means of hazing on other campuses. Granted, even, that many shaved heads made their appearance on this campus in pre-war days during fraternity hell-week.

But head-shaving by any self-designated group of upperclassmen who may happen to be in possession of a few razors, is not the Penn State way of dealing with the freshman problem. It is not a solution. The freshman problem still exists. It was in no way dissipated or alleviated by the hatmen's attempts to cope with it.

Instead, the action of Druids and their cohorts has brought to light a much more serious problem, namely, whether law by outlaws' methods will be tolerated at Penn State. It is to be hoped that subsequent developments in the near future will prove that such methods will not be tolerated. And it is to be hoped that such developments will be a warning to any other would-be arbitrary administrators of justice.

Letters To Editor

Letter to the Editor of Collegian:
Dear Sir:

The deplorable "hazing" practices committed by certain upperclassmen last Sunday night took place entirely independent of, and in defiance of Tribunal. Tribunal was not responsible for this action, and thoroughly condemns such practices.

We realize, naturally, that the guilty party had good intentions, in that they wanted to make an attempt to revive frosh spirit, but we condemn them for the irrational and violent methods that they employed in carrying out their aims.

These men were called before Tribunal to account for their actions and for their infringement upon Tribunal's powers. Tribunal is accordingly reviewing the case and will make recommendations to the proper authorities for punishment of the offenders. After such recommendations, the final decision will rest with College authorities.

Very truly yours,
Howard Milliken
Tribunal Chairman

Letter to the Editor of the Collegian:
Dear Madam:

Just when I had become pretty well adjusted to Penn State, when I had begun to think reverently about the Lion Shrine and to bow before the Willow consistently, just as a really good spirit began to flow in me, a deplorable situation came to my notice.

Penn State Spirit isn't all it's cracked up to be. Dinks, white socks, bow ties and sandwich signs are now only empty symbols of a once-full spirit. When the DRUIDS, an honorary (?) fraternity, once respected on the campus, become hoodlums and commit assault and battery on frosh chosen at random, in the name of Penn State Spirit, and at least one absolutely innocent frosh was attacked, then that spirit is ready for no less than a very thorough overhauling.

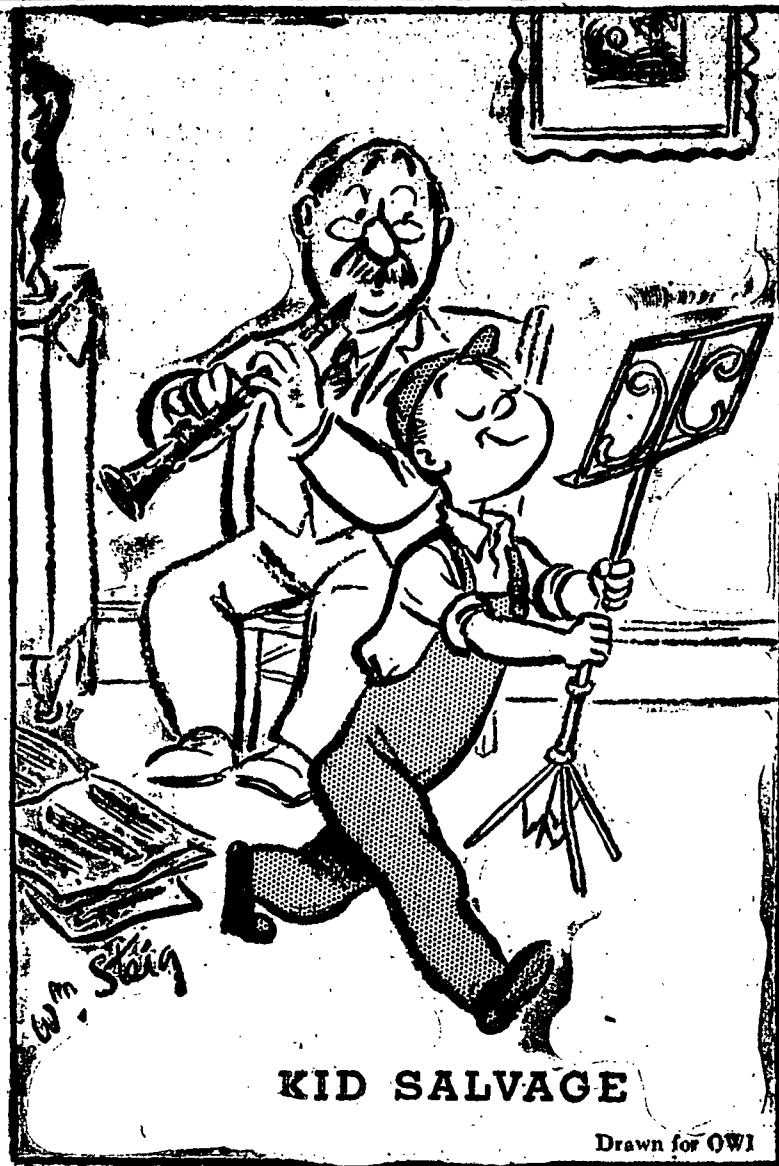
Maybe the freshmen can show the upperclassmen how to behave.

Respectfully yours,
An indignant frosh.

Editorial Note: A signed copy of this letter is on file in the Collegian office. The name of the writer is being withheld, at the discretion of the staff, not because of a request from the writer.

Collegian has received several other letters on this subject, all taking the same stand as this one, but we regret that we are unable to print them because they were unsigned. Letters to the editor submitted for publication, must be signed, although the name will be withheld upon request.

(Continued on page five)



Campuseer

By BOB KIMMEL

As soon as our public read us last week, we began to get responses, some of them unpleasant, it is true. But aside from these cries of anger from assorted persons who seemed to think the shoe was pinching their toes, we received many compliments and pats on the back. We know that the song and dance about many worthy persons being omitted when the honoraries tap is a recurring event, and as usual we agreed. However, we did hear by devious routes that there was a plan on foot to collect enough money to buy up the space where this column appears and print something or other. By way of the same devious routes, we let it be known that if anyone had anything worth while to say on the subject, we would be glad to donate the space. There have been no takers.

This Week's Dynamite -

The powder keg is all set and ready to have the fuse lit, but here is one bright boy who knows enough to keep his fingers out of traps . . . so you'll have to wait for the official version before we can interpret the results.

V-Mail - - -

From one of our close friends and recent collaborators now on the front with the Fifth Army in Italy, we had quite the nicest letter for a long time. Dolinger, who also applied the scientific needle in these columns, tells that he is on the way to fame at last. Just a week or so ago he was on the scene

at the front when some 15th and 16th century manuscripts were discovered where they had been hidden in an abandoned church. His story was used by the correspondents and wire services, but no credit for Miltie. He also writes that the chaplain in his section is a Trappist monk, probably the only one in the armed forces.

Which Side? - - -

The Penn State Engineer is running a short story from the New Yorker in the issue due out next week. It deals with a young lieutenant fresh from OCS and a veteran from the civil war in Spain. The lieutenant, as do so many other people, makes the mistake of assuming that the Loyalists were Reds and that Franco was the saviour of Spain. We find it hard to see how anyone, in the light of later developments, could be led to support the Franco point of view. It is fascist, and there has never been any question about it.

Invitations or - - -

After quite a discussion on the relative merits of invitations and announcements for graduation, we finally came to the conclusion that invitations are those things you send that mean for the relatives . . . "if you can't come, send it" and the announcements . . . "just mail it." The third pasteboard involved is the ticket for admission to the auditorium, which, if you haven't enough of, you scurry around trying to beg from neighbors.

