

Frosh Customs

There are no "Button Frosh" cries hereabouts, and we think the campus is worse off for it.

SUBJECT OF Orientation Weeks for too many years now has been incoming sophomores, with most frosh spread hither and yon throughout the State. We're sure this year's soph newcomers and those Elite 500, the freshman girls who are a vanguard of more to come, will excuse us if we shed a tear for the absence of campus-wide freshman customs.

Sure, we had freshman customs this year for the Elite 500. But they represented only a token effort. Their enforcement by upperclassmen went crying for the 'force'. But who can be blamed for disinterest when so few frosh are on campus? Next fall will provide better material to be wielded into good, spirited Penn Staters when perhaps 1,200 frosh neophytes will invade the Nittany realm.

To many upperclassmen who were around when freshman customs used to be in vogue, or who underwent customs themselves, it seems a lot of fun to reminisce about the time customs were a serious thing that struck fear into the heart of every bewildered frosh.

LET US TRY to reconstruct frosh customs. Judicial set the women's customs and Tribunal set the procedure for freshman men, but both had several identical rules. All freshmen were denied dating privileges during the first several months, were required to attend all athletic events and class meetings, and had to observe certain dress customs.

Frosh women wore large green bows in their hair (green was the freshman color) and namecards with name and hometown in large letters.

The men "had it worse." They were required to wear the traditional green dink, a block bow tie, white socks, and had to roll up their trousers to the knees. Each male frosh also wore a large namecard around his neck. Freshmen were not permitted to smoke on campus except when using an unvarnished corn cob pipe. Matches and a copy of the Student Handbook, or "freshman bible", were required possessions at all times.

EACH FROSH WAS to know the location of all buildings on campus, the Alma Mater and other College songs, and what was playing at local theaters. Only the side entrances to Sparks and Old Main could be used by the first-year Penn Staters.

Members of Tribunal and hatmen struck fear into freshman hearts as these upperclassmen were responsible for enforcing the customs. A violator would plead his case before the Tribunal Board, and if declared guilty, he would be sentenced to wearing a large sandwich sign describing his offense.

If the offender had been caught in the act of dating, likely as not he would be sentenced to wearing a dress and makeup as well as his sign, or perhaps he would be forced to wheel a baby buggy around campus. Other punishments were dolled out to fit the "crime."

CUSTOMS ENDED around Christmastime with the traditional freshman-sophomore battle. Sometimes it was a tug-of-war, boxing matches, or snowball fight (they had snow in those winters). If the sophs won the customs were continued another month, while if the frosh won customs ended on the spot.

FRESHMAN CUSTOMS, WITH all their folly and childishness—if you want to call it that, did foster one thing we believe is seriously lacking on campus now. That is school spirit. Recent Orientation Week programs, with the influx of sophs and the absence of frosh, have proved to us that they are no substitute for customs at Penn State.

The Daily Collegian

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Little Man On Campus by Bibler



"Let's see that bulletin again—now, if you want to take econ under Prof. Snarf, I've got all the assignments for the same course when Giffon taught it in the summer. —They both give the same quizzes. —Now, let's see—you wanted to take English IV . . ."

Training and Caring For Your Roommate

Continuing our examination of fascinating non-essential features of the College, we will take up today the problem of the Roommate.

Approximately 50 per cent of the students currently enrolled have Roommates. These, in the main, compose the other 50 percent. The Roommate is an air-breathing biped, addicted to consumption of stale cigarettes, onions, and the contents of your last food package from home.

IT IS ALMOST invariably "practically your size" and rapidly acquires the habit of borrowing your \$60 suit with three payments still due, invariably managing to get some smeared generously with indelible lipstick or permanent ink.

The Roommate snores. More, it groans, shrieks, whinnies, snorts like a dying cow, thunders like the crack of doom, and groans like all the lost souls since Cain. The animal, being an extremely sound sleeper, is almost impossible to awaken, and you have the choice of enjoying the music through a long and sleepless night, or going out and getting stewed to the follicles, falling down in a drunken stupor, and sleeping right through the noise and your first five classes next day.

After such a session, the Roommate is apt to remark chidingly, "Say, you cut too many classes. How come you don't do your sleeping at night?"

There are several ways of dealing with a snoring roommate. A favorite method involves a tourniquet applied just beneath the chin; this is rather final, however, and is liable to make you unpopular with your friends.

BETTER, IF YOU are fortunate enough to occupy the bottom leek of a pair of bunk beds, is the judicious use of upthrust feet to terminate the condition. A Roommate, despite all its talents, cannot snore except when lying on its back. If, therefore, the creature can be persuaded to roll over on its side, the noise will die to a continuous wheezing whine, annoying, but bearable.

Problem: To roll the Roommate.
 Locate the Roommate by the bulge in the mattress. The roommate is well-fed on your food, and forms an easily identifiable outline from beneath. There are three general systems that may now be applied.

1. Thrust one leg gently up, rocking the sleeping form smoothly several times. The snores will probably cease. You will then drop slowly off towards sleep until, as you are just on the brink, the racket will recommence with a frightening new volume, scaring you out of whatever wits remain to you after living for a while with the Roommate. It is now time to apply either the second or third remedy.

2. **THRUST UP LEG,** as before, but maintain pressure for some seconds on one side or the other of the Roommate. Gravity will, if you are lucky, extend its powerful tentacles and haul the Roommate over on its side.

2a. (optional) Continue the pressure until the Roommate rolls over completely once, twice, thrice. Halfway between twice and thrice, the creature should roll off the edge of the bed, and chances are it will crack its cranium on the cold floor.

The noise will cease, for that night anyway. Do not fear the results; remember, it is impossible to kill a Roommate. We've tried.

3. Finally, if you are the fun-loving type, you may thrust both feet up very rapidly square into the middle of the bulge. The noise will cease, the animal will probably awaken, and the rest of the evening's entertainment will take care of itself.

—RON BONN

And Now We Have . . .

The history of the Daily Collegian dates back to the old Free Lance, the original College magazine, which ceased publication in 1904, when it was succeeded by the State Collegian, a weekly. In 1910 its name was changed to the Penn State Collegian. A decade later it became a semi-weekly, and so continued until 1940 when it became a daily under the name of the Daily Collegian.

Tracking Down Tales



With The Staff

Two Sigma Phi Epsilon pledges, Tony Orsini and Ray Slavin were interviewed on Bill Brant's KDKA "Midnighters Club" in Pittsburgh last Saturday night. One of their "hell-week" assignments was to get Bill Brant's autograph and when they told him their story he put them on the program.

Error?? A recent bulletin of the Penn State Christian Association stated: "We are distributing copies of the Intercollegian Magazine to fraternities, sororities and other loving units."

Jim MacCallum, All-College secretary-treasurer claims to have hitch-hiked twice the distance round the world during his four years at State. MacCallum makes the round trip from State College to his home in Emporium by thumb every weekend.

A new twist to the old pinning angle: When Carol (Cookie) Mermelstein was initiated into Sigma Delta Tau last Sunday, she pinned her boyfriend Buddy Teper, who is still a lowly pledge minus a fraternity pin.

Buddy's fraternity brothers were thrilled by this new innovation and he was deluged with telegrams, flowers, and even a serenade.

Safety Valve . . .

Defends Forum

TO THE EDITOR: My congratulations to the Community Forum for their selection of another excellent speaker, Carl Sandburg. If future speakers turn out as well as the three so far presented, I see no reason for student complaints or lack of student support—unless perhaps it comes from the Collegian's official griper Red Roth!

Contrary to Mr. Roth's beliefs, I feel that Carl Sandburg stands out above other forum selections not for his ability to remain an expert in his field when speaking, but rather for the fact that he is Carl Sandburg—a famous poet, author, and lecturer. He is not, known alone to the intellectual business men, serious thinkers, and practical diplomats of the nation as is, for example, Hanson W. Baldwin. Had Carl Sandburg, however, offered as much deliberative argument and constructive criticism as Mr. Baldwin, I am certain I would not have heard so many people frankly admit their disappointment at Sandburg's presentation.

It seems that the chronic griper class, represented by Red Roth, will say anything to fill up an "interesting" column or BULL session.

—Arthur A. Chadwick

Gazette

Thursday, January 19

- PSCA BIBLE Study Group II, 304 Old Main, 4 p.m.
- WRA BADMINTON Club, White Hall Gym, 4 p.m.
- WRA BOWLING Club, Beginners, White Hall Alleys, 7 p.m.
- WRA FENCING, 1 White Hall, 7 p.m.
- ALPHA DELTA SIGMA, Phi Delta Theta House, 7:30 p.m.
- WRA SWIMMING Club, Advanced, White Hall Pool, 7:30 p.m.
- DAIRY SCIENCE Club, election of officers, 117 Dairy, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

- Further information concerning interviews and job placements can be obtained in 112 Old Main.
- National Lead Company, Jan. 20. February and June grads at Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. levels in Chem, ChemE, and Metallurgy interested in research in field of titanium chemistry. High scholastic standing is essential.
- Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co., Jan. 20. February and June B.S. and M.S. candidates in Chem. Applicants must have 1.8 or better average.
- Aircraft-Marine Products, Jan. 24. February grads in IE for positions as sales correspondents leading to sales engineering.
- Mergenthaler Linotype Co., Jan. 26. February grads in ME for sales positions.
- Haloid Co., Jan. 20. February grads in EE with 1.8 or better average, and M.S. candidates in Chem.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

- Admitted Tuesday: Kenneth Shengold, Joseph Wentzler, Charles Eckert.
- Admitted Wednesday: Dorothy Garber, Nancy Baylor, William Stewart, Robert Keller, Bernard Neckrich, Betty McGee.
- Discharged Wednesday: Kenneth Shengold, Constance Bevan, Edward Mazeika, William Hershey.

AT THE MOVIES

- CATHAUM—Undertow.
- NITTANY—The Stratton Story.
- STATE—Without Honor.