

# The Daily Collegian

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## Storm Signal

The freshman outbreak Wednesday night may well be the storm signal for a growing, widespread rebellion that could snowball into drastic proportions. It could be the start of an explosive situation that could disintegrate quickly to the variety of hazing and frosh retribution practiced in pre-war years.

LAST SPRING we called upon cabinet to seek some method of preventing a reversion to the fantastic customs practices of earlier years. Nothing was done. Yet the Wednesday revolt indicates that an explosive situation can deteriorate with startling rapidity and that reversion is a distinct possibility at this point.

Hatmen promised shortly after the revolt that they would "crack down" on frosh—a promise which if carried out sternly, could lead to frosh retaliation and further outbursts.

Much of the responsibility for seeing that customs do not get out of hand—that a harmfully explosive situation is not allowed to develop—will fall on the shoulders of hatmen. They must realize that they as well as the frosh were to blame for the Wednesday outburst, and that they must maintain a level-headed attitude if they wish to prevent further outbreaks. Mere vindictiveness will go a long way toward further inflaming frosh and will do nothing to build a sane customs program.

FRESHMEN apparently felt that they had legitimate gripes when they called their protest demonstration. Hatmen will contribute greatly toward understanding and a stable campus if they give consideration to these gripes and stop for a moment to take stock of their customs operations.

Apparently hatmen wish to continue customs and make them a permanent fixture at Penn State. If they do, they must take care that the program stays within bounds and does not result in harmful effects. Unless hatmen tread softly and approach their problem in an adult manner, the customs program quite easily could degenerate into an orgy reminiscent of irresponsible pre-war days.

### AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM: The Breaking Point  
STATE: My Friend Irma Goes West  
NITTANY: Nancy Goes To Rio  
STARLITE DRIVE-IN: It Happens Every Spring

## A Cheer For 'Rip'

Charles "Rip" Engle, Nittany football coach since May, will be welcomed to the College by the whole student body at a pep rally in front of Old Main tonight.

POSSIBLY the welcome is somewhat belated, Rip having already molded the team for its first encounter tomorrow. But in a sense it is appropriate that we greet him now, at the start of the gridiron season, and wish him luck in all of his days here.

On several occasions the new head coach has stated that the football outlook for the year is not bright, that we can hope for no more than two or three wins. Still, he has gone to work and produced what promises to be a spirited if not often victorious team.

At an orientation meeting several weeks ago, Rip told the freshmen that he too was in his first year at the College but that already, within a span of four months, he had been able to grasp the spirit which prevails in Nittany valley.

By his actions, Coach Engle has shown that he means these words. Leaving behind a victorious Brown University eleven, he has enthusiastically attacked the problems of a Nittany team which has seen some lean days since its Cotton Bowl peak of 1947.

TOMORROW, the Penn State football team takes on its first opponent of the 1950 season. Tonight, students will say hello to their team's new coach and will let him know that they are solidly behind him, win or lose, in his first year in Nittany football.

—John Ashbrook

## Safety Valve . . .

Letters to the editor should be addressed—The Daily Collegian, Box 261, Boro. The writer's name will be withheld upon request, but no letter will be printed unless signed.

### Unifying The Frosh

TO THE EDITOR: The showing displayed by a portion of the freshman class on Wednesday night Sept. 27 made very evident the necessity of freshman customs. The customs are for the purpose of unifying the class and if there is anything lacking in the class of '54 it's unity. This was very clearly shown by the mob last night.

Unity is necessary in order that we may pick out our most capable leaders and get behind them as an organized unit, instead of forming a disorderly crowd that can be easily swayed by a small organized group . . .

. . . If there have to be some freshmen who are cry babies about the customs why don't they cry to themselves instead of causing others to waste their time and efforts towards a senseless cause . . .

● Letter cut  
—Chuck Wood, Bill Schellhammer, Ted Struk, Al Deibert

### Regrettable Incidents

TO THE EDITOR: . . . The mob action displayed on Wednesday night of this week shows that customs, in a sense, has already accomplished one of its major goals—that of furnishing us with a group spirit. However mobs never accomplish anything except regrettable incidents . . . If we wish to accomplish something for the class as a group it will have to be done through organization in our respectable dorms and not through mass demonstration.

From my inexperienced viewpoint, I see customs as a necessary part of college life . . . We are under a lenient system and should be all for it — not trying to overthrow it.

● Letter cut  
—Jack White

## Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



(English Assignment: An ORIGINAL composition.)

## Pro and Con

By STAN DEGLER

The College hasn't seen the last of Wednesday night's freshman demonstration.

EVEN IF NO MORE "rallies" occur, bitterness against hatmen and student government officials will carry over into the time after customs are removed.

The rally can be viewed as an expression of freshman untiy, as an excess of exuberance, or as a malicious defiance of regulations.

That it is not class unity is illustrated by the disorder which reigned when various leaders spoke of gaining representation, or of partial removal of customs. For a hot-head faction in the crowd nothing but defiance of customs regulations would suffice.

ONE SPEAKER insisted above the din that members of Tribunal are "decent fellows"; he apparently had first hand experience. And there was a large moderate element. These were men who stayed in the dorms, who remained in the courtyard instead of participating in the mad dash down the Mall, and who wrote the letter in today's Safety Valve.

The bitterness involved refutes the naive statement that, as one person said, they were "feeling frisky." It is true to some extent, of course, but comments like "Let's show them freshmen are important," and "We should have the right to go anywhere," revealed the hard feelings rankling in some minds.

A hatman talked to the crowd on senior walk, and spoke much sense. But he had a knack for saying all the wrong things, and succeeded only in arousing more hard feelings. His remark that freshmen "weren't invited here" was particularly unfortunate, and the mass rejoinder, "Where would Penn State be in four years, if we hadn't come?" was perfectly correct.

WHAT FRESHMEN MUST REALIZE is that the few hatmen who torment them, are only a tiny part of the hat societies and an even smaller portion of the student body. Upperclassmen have greeted the customs program with apathy, on the whole.

Some hatmen and members of Tribunal and cabinet may regard the affair as a malicious defiance of customs which must be punished and suppressed. Probably some disciplinary action will be taken. But it would be more sensible to regard the rally as the logical result of the hatmen's own actions.

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**NOTICE**

**Payment of Fees Postponed**

Registration for Fall Semester 1950-1951 will be completed by payment of fees on October 12 and 13, instead of October 5 and 6.

ALL FEES, including ROOM and BOARD CHARGES, will be due on these dates. Veterans whose remaining entitlement is insufficient to carry them beyond the semester's mid-point should note that they will be required to pay their entire semester's fees.

Fees will be collected in Room 6, Willard Hall on October 12 and 13 from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.