

The Daily Collegian

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Freshman Customs Can Be Clean Fun

Beginning Monday at 7 a.m. almost 2700 freshmen will begin customs.

In the last two years, since the inception of the first customs program following World War II, there has been much discussion over the value of the customs program. Many feel that customs are silly; a few consider them vicious, but the majority of students, we feel, recognize the customs program for what it is—an attempt to further acquaint new students with the ideas and traditions of Penn State.

We came to the campus as a sophomore, after spending our freshman year at a center. We had undergone customs at the center and found them enjoyable. When we came to State we knew little of what to expect. Frankly, we never got around to learning the Penn-State songs until almost the end of our second semester.

Many freshmen don't know just what to expect of customs. Some view the next few weeks with apprehension. There's really nothing to fear. There is no viciousness in the customs program at Penn State, and any attempts at hazing (activities not specifically defined in the Freshman Customs Regulations) should be reported to the Freshman Customs Board.

All upperclassmen and women are asked to enforce customs, but usually the job falls chiefly to the hatmen and hatwomen. These people are not to be feared, but rather, respected. The black hats of the men and the gray hats of the women do not signify power and authority, but rather denote that that student has been honored by the College and fellow students for outstanding service to the College in athletics, publications, government, politics, or other fields.

It should be remembered by the frosh that customs are not a form of punishment. The green hats and green bows worn by the frosh merely denote someone who is new or "green" on campus. The freshman should not feel guilty because of this. Rather, he should be proud that he is now a member of the great Penn State family.

Customs can be a lot of good clean fun for both the frosh and the upperclassmen. When the program ceases to be kept free from viciousness and silliness, then it ceases to perform its job at Penn State. When that time comes, customs should be abolished. Until that time, however, every Stater should work toward the betterment of the program.

AIM Organization Unites Independents

The Association of Independent Men is the only organization under which independent men can have any semblance of unity. For this reason AIM is as important to the independent man, as a cohesive agent, as fibrin is to blood.

Under AIM, independent men have a voice on All-College Cabinet, a liaison is established between the independent man and the College administration, dormitory councils have a chance to solve problems together, and a social outlet is provided for the men in the dormitories.

AIM got off to a lowly start three years

ago. Since that time it has made good progress, but AIM still has a long way to go. However, the progress made since its inception is something of which the Association of Independent Men can be proud.

Critics of AIM's social programs are constantly pointing to the usually successful activities of fraternity men. But they fail to realize that fraternities form a more unified group because a man entering a fraternity usually remains there until he is either graduated or flunked, or he transfers. Every year there is a large turn-over in the dormitories. Unification of this transient group is a huge task—one which AIM has accomplished with some degree of success.

Dances which AIM held in the West Dorm lounge last year are only one example of the unity which AIM has achieved. Independents in both AIM and Leonides were drawn together under the bond of their social program. These programs are limited by the facilities available. This is no reflection on AIM. The men in AIM and the women in Leonides have done the best job possible.

It's true that AIM has had splits, some of them serious. However, these splits were usually the result of differences of opinion on policy. The main concern of the men of AIM is the welfare of the independent men. Uniting approximately 4000 men who are scattered throughout town and in dormitories requires a lot of work. The odds are overwhelming, but the courage AIM has shown in the past in the face of these odds gives rise to the hope of some day seeing a truly united group of independent men.

—Dick Rau

Cooperation Shown In Fraternity Case

Student-administrative cooperation has been a thing much talked of in the past. But an example of how these groups can work together when a common problem arises shows, better than any philosophy on the subject, that all the talk has not been just talk.

The example involves a special committee of the College student welfare committee, the Dean of Men's office, the executive committee of the Interfraternity Council, and a fraternity which got itself "in dutch" with the administration.

Of course, the situation was not without its bad moments. The alleged violations of the College rules by Beta Sigma Rho took place late last semester, and action on the matter was not taken until after most students had left the campus for the summer. As a result there were no student representatives on the committee which was formed to determine the disciplinary action in the case. The IFC executive group, however, had made recommendations as to the punishment which should be inflicted. Apparently these were ignored by the special committee.

The penalty agreed on by the committee—one semester's social probation—was definitely not to the liking of the IFC group. We feel their dissatisfaction was justified since they were not consulted before the decision was rendered. It looked then as if student-administrative cooperation was just a myth. Social probation means that the fraternity may not engage in any social function during the penal period. As the punishment originally stood, the house involved would not have been able to engage in rush week activities—a disastrous blow to any fraternity.

But the IFC was not content to allow things to remain as they were. Eventually, through sessions with the Dean of Men's office, an agreement suitable to the majority of the members of the special committee was reached without the necessity of calling the group back into session.

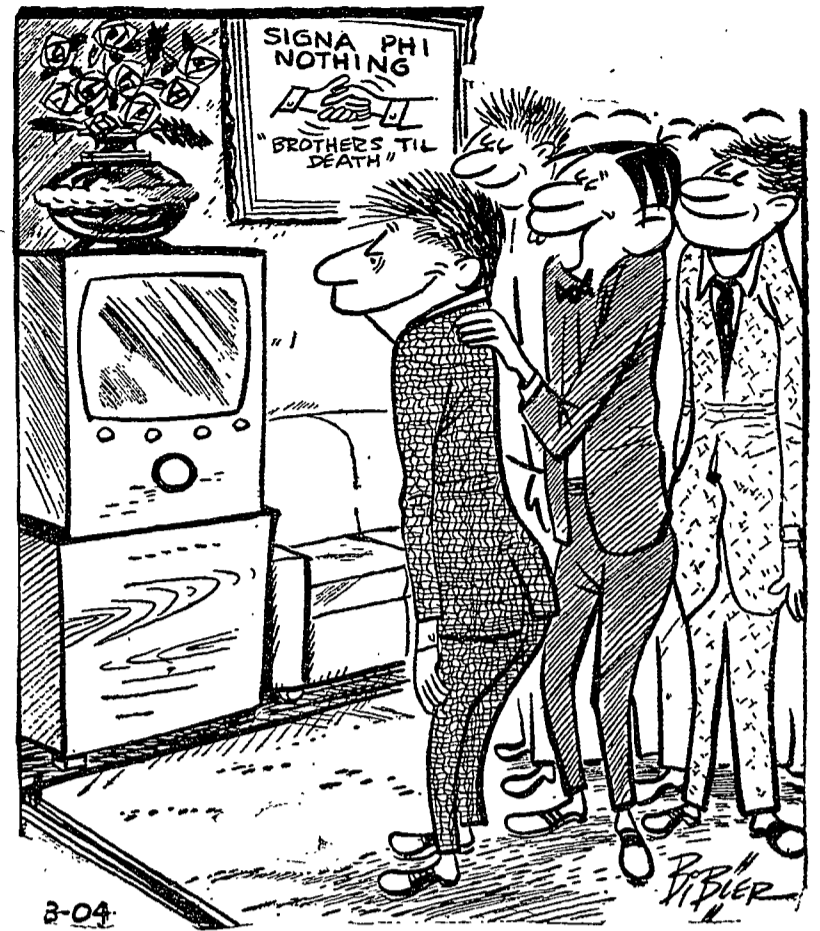
The new ruling places the fraternity on an eight-week social probation, period beginning Monday. While the house will be out of circulation for Homecoming Weekend, the brothers have plenty to be thankful for and undoubtedly appreciate what has been done on their behalf.

The current affair has shown that the administration does not make a decision and then stick to it regardless of the arguments presented. It has shown, too, that the Interfraternity Council and its executive committee mean business—that they are groups looking out for their constituents, but willing to admit mistakes too.

We trust this type of cooperation will continue in the future. It is to the best advantage of all groups concerned.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"An' remember, Fitzgerald, when you're lookin' over the other houses, don't forget that the Sigma Phi Nothing Fraternity has the biggest television screen on campus."

Spices of Life

By GINGER OPCZENSKI

A six-week summer course was our official excuse for a trip to Mexico, but the experience of a few jostling rides in a Mexican bus or cab is reason enough for the trip south.

Mexican busses are of two classes—first class, insuring you of a seat and rather uneventful trip for your three-cent fare, and second class—promising adventure in the raw for two cents.

With all the romance in our soul blossoming (and because they came more often), we students usually took the latter. From the flying leap necessary to safely board the vehicle before it took off, to the forced mastery of descending from a still-moving bus at your destination, second-class riding provides no end of entertainment.

Why all the hurry, you ask, especially among Mexicans, noted for their matter-of-fact, lazy manner.

Managers of the bus lines, realizing the national habit, pay drivers for the number of round trips made each day, not the number of passengers carried. Hence the fast take-offs, often leaving passengers stranded waiting for the next bus, and the straining of each driver to pass every bus he meets . . . and the lineup of several buses taking the same route, followed by a long lull before a similar bus shows.

Busses are a very popular means of transportation because of the great masses who cannot afford a car. That's why they crowd together till several people are holding on to the rail in the open doorway and stand five lines deep between the two rows of seats. Because of the great opportunity for pilfering in such conditions, we developed a "Mexican clutch"

on our handbag that lingers still.

Mexican traffic lives up to every word of its gory reputation. The stop light is virtually unknown and only on the busiest corners in heart of cities are there traffic cops. At other intersections, it's every man for himself, and the bravest one pulls out into the engulfing traffic first. Just as you're sure your driver won't make it this time, someone stops. They say the only ones who get in accidents are foreigners.

Most cab drivers own their own cars, and can charge just about anything they please for trips around town. We had been warned to bargain with taxi drivers before we came to Mexico. Our Spanish, however, must have been a little shaky at our arrival, for the driver wouldn't accept less than 5 pesos (about 60 cents American) for our first ride. Later trips, with more experience in Spanish and a few companions to back us up, cost only 3 pesos (36 cents American).

Since rates are based on distance and not the number of passengers, oft times one of us stepped out of the house to bargain for a 3-peso ride and then signaled

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New College Diner

Complete Food Service

Between the Movies

Freezer Fresh Ice Cream