

Editorial Opinion

Customs: Why?

There have been some questions raised on campus within the past few days concerning the purpose of freshman Customs. The Customs program, which seems to be becoming more enthusiastic by the day, has been questioned from the standpoint both of individual procedures and overall usefulness.

The purpose of Customs is to instill spirit and feeling of unity into the freshman class, and also to make each new class conscious of the traditions and institutions of the University.

The methods of the Custom program—the dinks, the buttoning and curtsying, the songs and cheers—all help to bind the freshman class together under the common and good-natured bond of "protection" against the upperclassman. The Customs are not harmful but only sometimes a little demanding and normally humorous.

And yet, if handled well, Customs accomplish a great deal. Freshmen, by necessity if not by desire, learn much about the campus, the University and its traditions, and student institutions and practices.

Customs should make a freshman feel he belongs to the University community, and that he may have to suffer a few discomforts and endure a few pranks in order to earn his membership in that community. And when he does, he will be all the more grateful for it.

And, Customs is fun. Stop a few freshmen today and ask them—almost all will tell you they actually enjoy Customs and their only regret is that it is not enforced as enthusiastically as it might be.

Customs provides freshmen with a chance to meet each other and to meet upperclassmen. The program imparts a feeling of familiarity which might be a long time in coming if the freshman class was absorbed into the University quietly and without notice.

If Customs continues as it has the past few days, the University will have gained a spirited, unified and interested class.

Keep Parents' Interest

Many parents showed a great interest in the University last year when they donated more than \$8000 for the Stone Valley recreation project. And student leaders want to maintain this interest.

All-University Cabinet last night sent to its public relations committee for study a proposal to form a University parents association.

Such a group could be valuable in four ways:

- It could promote more parental interest in the University and even in their own children.
• It could help raise funds for worthwhile projects.
• It could serve as an easy way to contact a large group of persons interested in the University.
• It could well serve as a pressure group along this line, perhaps the flood of letters received from parents two years ago was influential in lengthening the Christmas vacation so that no students were forced to travel in New Year's Day traffic.

Cabinet members preferred a parents association to a mothers' club. After all, appeal to Home, Mother and the American Flag are all very fine, but why exclude Dear Old Dad.

A good many problems are involved in setting up any organization of the size and complexity of a parents association. But the idea has definite merit and should be thoroughly studied.

Interpreting

India, Pakistan Settling Issues

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

The prime ministers of Pakistan and India have just been conducting border negotiations under a principle which has long been advocated and sometimes applied in the search for peace between the West and the Communist sphere.

That is the principle of separating issues for which there is some hope of agreement and working on them, leaving aside more complicated matters for future reference.

In that fashion, after years of fruitless effort and pressure by the United Nations, India and Pakistan have now settled eight of 15 border issues.

Beyond that, they agreed to ban the use of force in connection with any of the remaining issues which were on the agenda of this meeting.

Unfortunately, this latter agreement does not seem to apply to the one great dispute, involving Kashmir. That topic was avoided at the conference.

Kashmir has kept India and Pakistan spending resources on military preparedness which neither of them can afford.

And because United States military aid to Pakistan as an ally against the Soviet Union also builds her up against India, this dispute has had an extremely unfavorable effect on relations between the United States and India.

Any sign that the two governments, created in the partition which accompanied liberation from British rule, can begin to agree is therefore doubly welcome in the United States.

It is also a mark of the quiet work being done in many fields by the United Nations, since the meeting presumably resulted from the mission to the two governments carried out by Frank P. Graham in January.

Board OK's Loan Policy For Students

The Board of Trustees has approved a policy for administering student loan funds at the University, replacing one adopted in 1933.

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students who have completed their first semester, attaining an average of 2.00 or better, are eligible for these loans.

Long-term unpaid loans to freshmen will not be made in excess of \$250; to sophomores in excess of \$500; nor to juniors in excess of \$750. Seniors and graduate students are eligible for loans up to \$1000.

All loans will be made a matter of record with a promissory note. Each note will cover a period of not more than one year.

Students meeting the general loan requirements in addition to those set by the University may apply for loans at the offices of the dean of men or the dean of women.

Gazette

- TODAY
Christian Fellowship, 12:45-1 p.m., 218 HUB
Freshman Customs Board, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB
Hillel, Sabbath Eve Service, 8 p.m., Host: Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity
Hubzapoppin, 7:30 p.m., HUB Assembly hall
Interlandia Folk Dancing, 7 p.m., HUB ballroom
Lutheran Student Association, Square Dance, 7:30 p.m., L.S.A. Center
Penn State Bible Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 214 Boucke
UCA freshman picnic, Forestry Cabin
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Elaine Ammaturo, Etnko Bornemisza, Gerald Carlson, Michael Carlson, Edward Caye, Diane Dubois, Gail Dubrow, Anne Farley, Carol Fegley, John Glagola, Gary Grove, Evan Herdman, Andrew Jordan, Harry Kesselman, Ronald Kolb, Robert Kopf, Leslie Lipschultz, Howard Mairhofer, Donald Minnich, Richard Pigossi, Richard Sabel, Marvin Sauer, Willard Smith, James Swartzwelder.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Ya got a package from yer ma marked 'Perishable' — it was."

top of the mall

Back Without Any Welcome

by Lynn Ward

Sufficient welcome, we feel, has been given to the freshmen. Transfers, too, have been readily accepted by the administration, faculty and students. But there are yet some "unsung heroes."

These are the students who were asked to leave the University within the past few semesters primarily for

scholastic reasons. That is to say, they flunked out. Some of them may have left as disciplinary cases or others may have been borderline scholars who were victims of overcrowded colleges.

But many of them are back now, and no one arranged to have them greeted by hatmen nor planned special get-reacquainted mixers for them in the HUB ballroom.

No one scheduled special talks for them by the deans on "It's good to have you back." They don't even have the dubious privilege of wearing customs that read, "Back For A Second Try."

One by one they re-enter University life, taking up where they left off, or repeating what they left out. That is to say, they are going to classes now.

We commend them for the

determination they return with—to get the most out of their classes. And they retain this attitude, retain it until they run into a guy they used to sit next to in an Econ class.

Then naturally they have to set up a few Friday afternoon TGIF celebrations . . . and then . . .

We doubt that we could welcome them back for a third time. That would be pushing it a little too far.

By now the freshman women have probably realized that the irresistible black velvet lounging outfit the girl on the department store college board sold them last month just isn't the practical thing for Penn State.

But the fashion magazines will continue to advertise the highest of fashion for coeds. The recommended college coat will be a wrap-around that one clutches desperately while braving the winds in January.

But last year's freshman returned this fall, two suitcases and four hat boxes lighter.



A Student-Operated Newspaper

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance est 1887

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