

Editorial Opinion

Letters

More Students Write on Nittany T-Shirt Issue

Daily Open Houses

Seventeen off-campus fraternities held open houses Sunday afternoon, entertaining hundreds of freshmen.

One fraternity held an open house early Sunday morning, but its visitors were not interested in possible pledgeship.

Instead they made off with a boxload of the fraternity residents' personal belongings.

Fraternity members welcomed Sunday afternoon's guests with every cordiality.

This year's nearly half-dozen fraternity burglaries and the frequency with which such incidents have occurred during the last several years seems to indicate that fraternities also have the welcome mat out for thieves.

Many fraternity members are in the habit of going to bed leaving out in plain sight their wallets, jewelry and other personal items of value.

But not only personal items are involved. A good many pieces of fraternity furnishings have disappeared in past burglaries.

There is no question but that most fraternities have enough items worth enough money to attract thieves. And it has become obvious that a burglar can enter a fraternity and walk off with a pile of loot without disturbing fraternity members—and without being disturbed himself.

Fraternities apparently have not learned from experience. It may be difficult to find a way to keep out burglars during the night while allowing free entrance and exit to members, but this should not be too big a task for fraternities—or even the Interfraternity Council.

Open houses are fine things for the fraternity system. But not all night every night.

TO THE EDITOR: After reading the editorials and articles in your recent publications, I cannot help but feel anything but disgust for the authors of these articles. What do they know of the situation at Nittany? Do they live here? I would like to enlighten their warped minds as to the true situation of the Nittany area.

In the first place, until the T-shirt ban was brought up, only a few men would go to eat in T-shirts. After the ban on T-shirts was made, this gave students the incentive to go in T-shirts to meals, so they wore them just to spite the ruling.

If decent dining quarters and meals were provided, there would be no rebellion to the idea of dressing in sport shirts and sport jackets to eat. Would you wear a tuxedo to a record hop? A person with all his senses wouldn't. So, why dress up to eat in the "Nittany dining hole."

I, a resident of Nittany Hall, invite The Daily Collegian staff to inspect our dining facilities and the dress of the diners.

—Dave Wolff, '62

•Letter cut

TO THE EDITOR: Walk into the Nittany dining hall any night of the week. Take a look around you and count the T-shirts. They are, by far, in the minority. If our crusading cub reporters would open their eyes, rather than sitting in their offices trying to win Pulitzer Prizes, they might learn quite a bit. It is obvious to us that when the last editorial was written the true views of the average Nittany man were not taken into consideration.

It is true that we voted down the referendum, but we did not vote down good taste. Contrary to the Collegian's opinion, we of Nittany are not simply a group of animals who refuse to wear clothes. The primary objection to the dress rules was the feeling of misrepresentation on the part of the dormitory representatives. The men of the area felt that they should have been consulted before such definite action was taken on the part of the council. This feeling alone motivated many people to vote "no".

In reference to the statement of one of the coeds on the datability of Nittany men: There seems to be an ample representation of Nittany men to be seen on campus with coeds at any time.

—Howard Farrer, Steve Howard, John Elish, David Kelley, Al Rosenberg, Stu Broth, Bernie Goldsmith, Waston Brown, Harry Saxer, Larry Dodds, Walter Pottleiger, Norm Burkey, Andy Kasarda, Kenny Slagle, Frank Callon, Gary Glann, Clarence Yeagley, James M. Cameroio, Bob Schwenger, Charles E. Myers, Fred Twilla.

•Letter cut

TO THE EDITOR: I wish to state that I voted that the motion be upheld, but just because the motion was defeated is no reason to call the men of Nittany a bunch of "slobs."

Don't forget, it isn't our fault we live in this area and there isn't a thing we can do about it. We, the residents of Nittany, are just as good as any other college student—male or female.

If an inspection of the dining hall would be made by the author of the (editorial) in Thursday's Collegian, he would see that the conditions do not call for a suit or sport coat on Sundays. This is our home and why shouldn't we dress as we would at home.

The T-shirt and sweatshirt condition, however, is another matter. Most of the fellows are not too fond of them being worn in the dining hall, but the motion gave us a choice of (rules on both issues) or none.

The coeds who called us slobs and said we could not get dates are very wrong . . .

—Earl E. Bridge, '62

•Letter cut

TO THE EDITOR: Ostensibly all the downtrodden "gentlemen" of Nittany dormitories find deep pleasure in voicing their defiance to the organized world

in their recent referendum victory.

Although they are apparently always being ignored, and it is only human that they should react bitterly to the decrees of the Powers, it seems to me that they demonstrated very poor judgment in bringing forth this university-degrading display. The story was teletyped over the country to let the world know what is happening at the "illustrious" Penn State.

Now they have voiced themselves and the whole embarrassed university is reminded that they exist; embarrassed not because they exercised their newly-found referendum prerogative, but because they happened to choose a very indiscriminate time for a demonstration.

—Ralph H. Fertig, '62

TO THE EDITOR: The Collegian's statements were made because Nittany residents do not wish to be obligated to wear a jacket to Sunday dinner.

It is a rare occasion to see more than 10 people in the dining hall wearing T-shirts. However, we will assume as you seem to, that nearly every Nittany resident wears a T-shirt to each meal. Is it out of good taste? Is it reason for disgrace? Both of these are merely a matter of opinion. Albert Einstein spent much time walking around in dirty clothes and sneakers; however, he was respected world-wide.

Nittany residents make no wish to be compared with Einstein, nor do they wish to be a disgrace to the University by dressing as "slobs." On the other hand, they have no intention of dressing up unless there is occasion to do so.

I am positive that if Nittany residents were to eat with coeds as is planned, or even if there was a respectable dining hall to eat in, the voting would be nearly unanimous—only in the other direction.

—Thomas Farr, '62

•Letter cut

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to present an objective analysis of the "Slob" issue. On one dish of the balance is the civil rights and ill-representation argument and the other dish contains the argument of "claim to decorum."

The argument of civil rights stems from the Nittany men. The issue is not solely against T-shirts, which too many people are inclined to believe, but one of freedom of expression.

The typical male freshman . . . has just been "let out from under the parental apron strings." The natural inclination of a person in this state of mind is freedom of expression, whether it be in thought, action or dress.

The Nittany men don't directly object to "no T shirts." On the contrary, if a ruling were passed that only T shirts were to be worn in the dining hall the Nittany men would object there also. They believe that they have paid for their meals and their dress should not prevent them from receiving what they have rightfully paid for.

On the other hand, these men should dress in a manner congenial to college living. The freedom attitude these men have has not molded itself with society and decorum. Give these men time. They will blend their freedom with society and decorum. Only give them time.

The second argument is that of ill-representation in the council. The Nittany men must realize that each dorm elects a man they think can do the best for that dorm. The elected officer goes to Nittany Council and votes according to what he thinks is best for his group.

"The claim to correct decorum" side of the issue, obviously is one of conformity. I will not say the "claim of correct decorum" is heavier on the balance than the "civil rights claim," because this is something each in-

dividual must decide for himself.

The argument put forth in The Daily Collegian and by people agreeing with it was illustrated very clearly in the editorial of Thursday, Nov. 13: "The opponents of the ban could not seem to understand that a regulation which is passed to raise the standards of a community and preserve some claim to decorum is not necessarily an infringement of rights." This argument can't be any clearer.

—Ron Hendrickson, '62

•Letter cut

TO THE EDITOR: It seems to me that before people make rash judgments concerning the T-shirt situation in the Nittany area, they ought to understand the logical reasoning which prompted us to vote down the referendum. The main objective of the dress rule "that no T-shirts are to be worn to the meals and a suit or sport jacket should be worn to the Sunday noon meal" was, as was stated, to improve the character and actions of the Nittany residents in the dining hall.

In the first place, how is the dress of a person going to make a maturely acting individual out of one that is essentially a so-called "slob?" If an individual is a "slob" in a T-shirt, then he is still a "slob" in a sport shirt or a suit jacket. His dress is of little importance.

Secondly, I don't think the men would have gone against this rule if it had been handled in a different manner. If instead of posting the referendum on the bulletin board without consulting any of the residents, the Nittany Council had formed a committee to talk to the men about this rule, it probably would have met with slight resistance.

I don't think the men are so-called "slobs." It is only through the efforts of a few that the bad manners are displayed in the dining hall, so why label everyone living in the area "slob." Let the blame fall where it is justified!

—William B. Barrick, '60

•Letter cut

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PEANUTS comic strip panels. Panel 1: A boy says 'I'll bet if I were a vulture, people would have more respect for me.' Panel 2: A girl replies 'Then again, maybe they wouldn't!' Panel 3: A boy says 'I just can't read with a vulture watching me!' Panel 4: A girl replies 'I just can't read with a vulture watching me!'

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