

# Background Drawn In Kamen Conflict

By MEG TEICHHOLTZ  
Editorial Editor

Last December Charles Kamen, a 21-year-old volunteer in the Peace Corps group which just finished training for the Philippines here went to a movie in his home city of Miami, Fla.

His attendance at that movie—"Operation Abolition"

—and his subsequent Peace Corps training, have jettisoned this somewhat retiring, introspective past senior class president of Brandeis University into the headlines of the nation.

Kamen was ejected from the film showing at the Miami Rotary Club because he "laughed and applauded at the wrong times," according to a spokesman for the club.

At this point the subject matter of "Operation Abolition" becomes relevant, for the film has been produced by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). It purports to depict the demonstrations against HUAC by students in the San Francisco area.

Included in the film are claims that the demonstrations were Communist-inspired and that the students became violent when police attempted to disperse them.

When Kamen "heckled" the film he did not initiate a new controversy for these charges have been denied by both the students who participated and faculty members of the institutions in the San Francisco area.

Professor John R. Searle of the University of California's philosophy department, on hand for the demonstrations, said they "were well monitored and orderly from beginning to end. Nor was there any outside leadership of this group, Communist or otherwise."

As a production of a Con-

gressional committee, the film is privileged and therefore not subject to libel or slander action.

After Kamen was chosen for Peace Corps training this spring, Rotary Club members complained in the press and attracted Congressional attention to the dispute. One of the members of the Miami Rotary Club was also a member of the Miami Draft Board.

The Miami Draft board refused to defer Kamen and R. Sargent Shriver, director of the Corps came to Kamen's defense. He rejected the demands of Congressmen that Kamen be dismissed.

Shriver added, with reference to the draft status of Corpsmen, "In the Peace Corps you do not get an exemption from the draft; you do get a deferment from the draft."

Final selection of the Philippines group has not yet been determined since the members must undergo further training and screening.

Kamen himself has refused to comment on the situation, noting that his fate is in the hands of the Peace Corps committee. He said he has been assured his case will be handled impartially.

"I am more interested in my work for the Peace Corps than in my 'battle' with the Rotary Club," Kamen said Wednesday.

the megaphone

## 'Neither Liberty nor Safety'

by meg teichholtz

A few years after fooling around with a kite and a key Ben Franklin sat down at his desk and wrote "They that would give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

It is rather shattering to realize that at Penn State the undeniable trend in past student governments has been the course of "temporary safety."



Miss Teichholtz

There are two things that make this, not only a sick philosophy, but a dangerous one: The first is that it is impossible to achieve that which is not attempted. Especially at Penn State, where the principle of free government becomes arbitrary.

The second and infinitely

more important reason concerns something called compromise. Freedom is not dilutable. Equality cannot mean "separate but equal." Democracy cannot be stratified.

Yet the overwhelming majority of past student leaders failed to realize this and over the past years have not sought the freedom that they think it is dangerous to seek.

Dangerous to seek freedom? Dangerous for student government to take the reigns of government from Old Main?

This has been found dangerous to the student leader's status. He just might be labeled as one of those liberals, or worse yet... "the beat type." His political career, upon which most of his ego is founded could be seriously undermined. Further, job recommendations could become difficult to obtain.

This dim picture suddenly grew sunny last spring when a liberal flood swept the current SGA president into office with one of the largest majori-

ties and vote turnouts ever seen at Penn State.

A lot of people got tired of compromise and they did something about it. They voted.

As entering freshmen, the members of the class of 1965 will hear much political talk, but talk is cheap.

The only thing that can get them the student bookstore they want, the increased governing power they should have by right, the myriad other needs that will appear, is their interest in their only elected spokesman—SGA.

This does not mean blind support, it means strength and thought. Those who are willing to make the temporary compromise may find themselves in that big, cold, cruel wide etc. world all safely compromised out of freedom, equality and democracy and tucked away in a thorny bed of totalitarian roses.

They may have made their bed, but only ideological strength will save the rest of the world from lying in it.

### The 57th Year--

(Continued from page four) usually eight or twelve pages long.

It will issue its first call for candidates during the first week of classes.

Students may try out for the staff by reporting to the Collegian office after 6 p.m. weekdays. Staffers need not be journalism students. Experience is desirable but not necessary. A desire and ability to write are necessary.

### a la carte

(Continued from page four) meet every day.

These lessons, it seems to me, are more lasting and almost more significant than the courses which introduce us to them. And if, by being here at Penn State, we have the opportunity to get these lessons, then we will be far better and happier people when we're gone.

And besides learning how to make a living, we will have learned something more—how to live.

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to the freshmen...

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