

Al Capp and Colloquy: They Just Don't Mix

By **GLENN KRANZLEY**
Collegian Managing Editor

As Al Capp finished his travesty on free speech in Rec Hall by telling the crowd what a powerful cartoonist and swell American he was, I walked out.

I stopped in the doorway and as I looked back toward the stage, Don Shall was telling the audience that the Colloquy Core Committee did not want to present its engraved tribute statue of the Nittany Lion to Capp.

This was immediately followed by another student, Mike Gehling, seizing the trophy, and handing it to Capp anyway.

Among the points to be considered is what happened before the trophy incident and what followed. For one and a half hours, Capp humiliated, degraded and browbeat all those who asked questions which tried to penetrate his arrogant, one-liner philosophy.

Afterwards, Capp was heard to say, "Now what the hell am I going to do with this lion?" Real grateful guy, Al Capp.

Also consider the intent of the lion presentation. Colloquy gave identical lions to the two other keynote speakers, Ralph Nader and Muhammed Ali, to show appreciation for the speakers' efforts in the Colloquy program. The Nittany Lion is a symbol of Penn State, and to use current phraseology, the possession of the lion by Capp is prejudicial to the good name of the University.

Shall's action can be criticized on similar grounds, that it may hurt the good name of the University. But taking all things into consideration, he is guilty of no more than bad protocol.

The Colloquy committee, seated in the front row, tried to relay the message to Shall to present the lion, which had already been engraved, backstage, rather than in



KRANZLEY

front of the already aroused crowd. But by the time the message got to Shall, all he understood was "no lion."

Had Shall been more careful to articulate the rationale for withholding the lion, his action would not have seemed so despicable to so many in the audience. Capp was not being scolded for his beliefs, but for his total destruction of the ideas of Colloquy.

Unfortunately, the blame for the aberration falls on the Colloquy committee. Capp was hired for his staunch conservatism. But the committee admits that they were not aware of his operating methods, or that he would insist on the preplanned planted question format, or that he would personally attack all those who had courage enough to walk to the microphones in the center aisle.

While all speakers prepare their speeches ahead of time, Capp tried to go farther than that. After 20 minutes of asking himself artificial questions and nearly chuckling himself out from behind the lectern, he ordered the 25 students with whom he had planted questions to line up and fire away.

A word about the question planting. If someone wanted to ask a question Capp didn't like, he ruled it out. And most of the questions were taken from cards and assigned to students. "Here's a good question. Who wants to ask it?" Capp would say. When everyone of them refused to go through with the artificial dialogue, Capp was angered, and he took it out on the crowd.

These are the things that Shall should have told the crowd before he withdrew the lion trophy. Perhaps his action would have been better understood.

To rub the trophy in Capp's face and then tell him he can't have it was an emotional action, and it pulled Colloquy down to the same level of tactics that Capp uses.

To withhold the trophy on stage may not have been the best lecture hall manners, but the person who slams his door in the face of Jack the Ripper will always be excused a breach of front porch etiquette.

Capp didn't deserve any better. After the program, at a press conference, a newsman asked Capp to read the inscription on the little lion to the group.

He held it up, read it, then turned it around and said, "It says 'piss off!'"
You sure do Al.

Concerning Capp and Colloquy

Capp: Little Intellect

TO THE EDITOR: As rash as it might have been, the action taken by the Colloquy Committee in refusing to hand an award to Al Capp dramatically demonstrated revulsion toward a dangerous trend in American politics.

In the manner of numerous candidates, Capp successfully evaded discussion of any issue in favor of vicious ad hominem attacks. Whereas the Colloquy theme was the "continuous interaction of minds and ideas," Capp's performance revealed a potent wit but little intellect, a violent speaker eliciting violent emotions.

However, Capp might be excused on the grounds that he is only using his considerable talents to please the tastes of the public. What he is like in private is the subject of speculation. But the actions of an approving crowd in Rec Hall cannot be easily excused. Exulting in personal attacks on anyone taking a more liberal view than Ronald Reagan, the crowd provided a visage of what Germany must have been like in the late 30's.

It is notable that Colloquy was able to successfully bring together representatives ranging from the Ku Klux Klan to the American Communist Party to present their views for public scrutiny, all without incident. It was left for a well-known member of mainstream politics to destroy the atmosphere of sincere intellectual inquiry established in Colloquy by appealing to the worst qualities of a partisan crowd.

Michael Alexander
12th-Philosophy-Philadelphia

Degenerate Monologue

TO THE EDITOR: I regret to say that I was one of the unfortunate many who sat through Al Capp's degenerate monologue Saturday evening.

It is a shame that the overall near-perfection of Colloquy had to be marred by the ravings of an egotistical maniac. To those who had the pleasure of being absent, allow me to elaborate on a few of the highlights of the evenings.

First, and perhaps most serious, Capp blatantly prostituted the purpose for which the Colloquy program was initiated—the meaningful and unfettered expression of ideas; he repressed, by the flagrant abuse of his overpowering microphone, virtually every question posed to him.

Secondly, after some inane statement concerning the characteristics of a compulsive masturbator, he turned to a young man in the audience and shouted, "Get your hands out of your pockets, kid, your doctor told you to cut that out!" I fail to understand how he could maliciously and falsely blurt out an accusation of this nature, when he had been committing that very act on the

stage, verbally and intellectually, for some two hours.

Thirdly, he compared the take-over of People's Park in Berkeley, to a mugger stealing someone's wallet. If there is a concrete and valid analogy between building a children's playground and the felonious actions of a mugger, then my wallet is up for grabs.

Mr. Don Shall's refusal, on behalf of the Colloquy Committee, to present Mr. Capp with a symbol of the student body's appreciation, a statue of the Nittany Lion, was perhaps the only meaningful expression of distaste for Capp's obvious lack of ability and intelligence. Sic semper tyrannis. I suggest that The American Dream lies somewhere outside the realm of a nightmare.

Christopher Stone
(3rd-Liberal Arts-Cedar Grove, N.J.)

Students Mar Affair

TO THE EDITOR: Members of Colloquy should be congratulated for coordinating an exciting round of speakers and discussions on the most timely subjects. Ironically enough, students marred the affair by their hissing and booing when speakers voiced opinions contrary to theirs. This was the case at the discussion, "If black is beautiful must white be ugly," and Al Capp's talk.

I applaud Al Capp for exposing these phony liberals, lacking common courtesy, as undisciplined children. Or perhaps the label, "fascist pig," often used by student activists these days, would better apply. I feel sorry for the Colloquy committee for exhibiting one of the most glaring examples of adolescent behavior in withholding the award of the Nittany Lion from Al Capp. PSU saved little grace by finally giving it to him.

The Colloquy was a good idea, but it failed in the sense that the very students who thought they wanted a colloquy would not permit one because they simply desired their own opinions repeated by the speakers, instead of allowing the speakers to inspire a challenge and provoke some thought.

I hope at the next Colloquy freedom of speech and opinion prevails for all.

Ann Pirnot
grad student-history

Explains Confrontation

TO THE EDITOR: Being the individual who had an unfortunate confrontation with Al Capp on Saturday evening, I believe that I owe an explanation to those members of the audience who did not understand why I did what I did.

In his speech Saturday night, Al Capp persistently interrupted, belittled, insulted and annoyed one questioner after another. The only person who escaped Capp's unfairness was the crew-

cutted middle-aged gentleman who told the audience how much he admired what Capp said and sought his advice for a poor, hard-working taxpayer. Surely, anyone who believes in the dialogue sought by the tremendous Colloquy program could not agree with Capp's rude disregard for the audience and those questioners who did not flatter his ego.

When I made the comments about Capp's disregard for free speech, I was interrupted by applause—which I did not want. As I tried to ask the question, I was interrupted by Capp's nasty remarks—which I did not want. All I wanted to do was say my thing and sit down. But I became angry with Capp's rudeness and first tried to speak despite him, and finally told him to shut up.

Instead, Capp insisted that I go up on stage and say what I was trying to say. I hesitated. But he persisted in that demand. So I finally went up and asked where Colloquy could refund the dollar I wanted on that circus show, and walked off the stage. On my way to my seat, the gentleman who earlier had lavished praise on Capp came running to me with a dollar. I told him I wanted the dollar not from him (the "poor, hard-working taxpayer") but from the Colloquy people to whom I had paid it. He pushed it into my hand and ran off. I was about to throw it toward him, but it was suggested instead that I tear it up. Seeing that immediately as a better idea, I did just that, and threw the pieces into the air. That apparently upset a few people.

I have been to many speeches and discussions, but have never seen such unfairness and nastiness in my life. Never have I asked a speaker a question—much less challenged them. But Al Capp was so disgusting that I shattered that precedent. I hope more students will understand now why I did what I did.

Bruce Shaw (3rd-Pol. Sc.-Prospect Park)
Disgusting Conduct

TO THE EDITOR: I attended Al Capp's presentation on Saturday night. I was quite disgusted with Capp's conduct. Capp says he has fought fascism, nazism and other such forms of tyranny at various times during his life. Therefore, one would think he would not have adopted many of their tactics, i.e. sneering, stereotyping, attacking a person rather than his ideas, and the suppression and ridiculing of questions and views. Capp repeatedly insulted and belittled questioners, listened with a closed mind to their comments, and in general violated the purpose of "Colloquy" which is dialogue and communication.

The "Colloquy" Committee was quite right in choosing not to present Capp with the Nittany Lion plaque. I regret that they feel it necessary to apologize for their altogether proper decision. It is Capp who should apologize.

Barbara Pollack
Graduate-Social Studies

Paper Requests Faculty Writers

University faculty are invited to submit articles to Collegian's "Faculty Forum." Columns of opinion from all members of the faculty are welcome.

The articles should be typewritten and triple-spaced and should not exceed 75 lines in length. Interested faculty should bring their articles to Collegian office, 20 Sackett Building.

HOW to Write Job-Winning Resumes. Instructions and examples. Send for free details! Executive Resumes, Box 246CP, Montclair, N.J. 07042

Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi

Salutes its recently honored sisters

Suzanne White and Donna Morton
tapped for Phi Beta Kappa

Gail Malinoski
tapped for Phi Kappa Phi scholastic honorary

Margo Streeter

co-editor Activities Section of '70 La Vie

End of Term SALE

1/3 off

Sportswear, Dresses, Blouses, Skirts, Pants, Knit Tops, Raincoats, etc.

This is Mr. Charles Annual Thank-you Sale for you coeds who have been so kind to us during the school term.

SALE at our

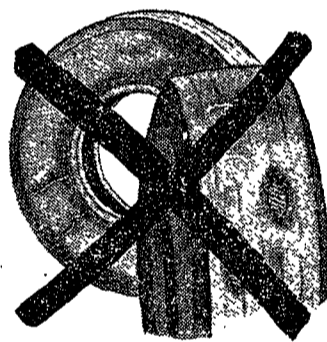
Mr. Charles
Campus Shopping Center Only

East College at Garner

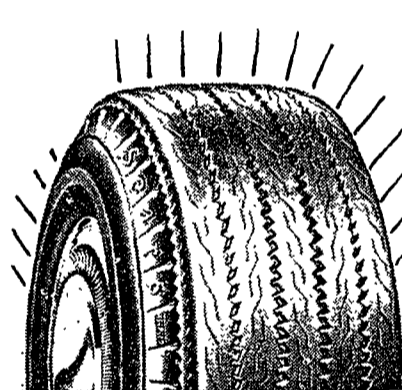
The Daily Collegian's Last Publication Issue of the Spring Term is Fri., May 30th

Are You Thinking About Buying Sears Retread Tires?

Here's Why Sears Retread Tires Are Your Best Buy!



Sears uses only sound tire bodies. Casings are carefully inspected, and only about 1 out of every 5 are accepted. Sears rejects any tire body with weak or damaged sidewalls or treads with unrepaired nail holes.



The sound fire casings are scientifically bonded to new treads of long-wearing Dynatuf tread rubber. Guaranteed by Sears to wear for a full 18 months. Patented Silencer Buttons keep tread grooves open for better traction.



Save on Pairs
7.75x14 Tubeless Blackwall Retreads

\$8.95

Plus 44c F.E.T. on each tire and 2 old tires

● Backed by the same strong guarantee as Sears new tires . . . guaranteed to wear for a full 18 months

● Contoured safety shoulders for easier steering and surer cornering

| ALLSTATE Passenger Tire Guarantee | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Tread Life Guarantee | Tread Wear-Out Guarantee | | |
| Guaranteed Against: All failures of the tire resulting from normal road hazards or defects in material or workmanship. | Guaranteed Against: Tread wear-out. | | |
| For How Long: For the life of the original tread. | For How Long: The number of months specified. | | |
| What Sears Will Do: Repair nail punctures at no charge. In case of failure, in exchange for the tire, replace it, charging only the proportion of current regular selling price plus Federal Excise Tax that represents tread used. | What Sears Will Do: In exchange for the tire, replace it, charging the current regular selling price plus Federal Excise Tax less the following allowance: | | |
| | Months Guaranteed Allowance | | |
| | 12 to 24 10% | | |
| | 27 to 33 20% | | |

| Sears Tubeless Retread Tires | Tubeless Blackwall | Tubeless Whitewall | Plus Federal Excise Tax on Each Tire and Old Tire |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| 6.50x13 | \$8.95 | \$10.95 | 32c |
| 7.75x14 | \$8.95 | \$10.95 | 44c |
| 8.25x14 | \$9.95 | \$11.95 | 45c |
| 8.50x14 | \$10.95 | \$12.95 | 49c |
| 7.75x15 | \$9.95 | \$11.95 | 47c |

Use Sears Easy Payment Plan

Sears wants you safe.

SHOP AT SEARS AND SAVE

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back



230 W. College Ave.
Phone 238-2451

STORE HOURS

MONDAY and FRIDAY—9:00 A.M. to 9 P.M.
Tue., Wed., Thur. & Sat.—9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.