FAREWELL TO FRESHMAN RULES

At their last meeting, Institute Committee defeated by a narrow margin a proposal to create a new set of freshman rules. This motion, which would have provided for an intensive, two-week hazing period just prior to Field Day, was brought up despite the fact that the report of the Freshman Coordinating Committee, recommending the abolition of all freshman rules, had been accepted only a few weeks ago.

The proposed new rules included all the old regulations, plus one new rule making the central walk of the Great Court off limits to freshmen during the hazing period.

In the past rules of this sort have either been completely ignored or flaunted quite openly. We wonder if the proponents of these new rules actually believe that a mere rule can keep the freshman from using a path?

Freshman rules are intended to instill some degree of class spirit and school spirit in the incoming class, and also acquaint them with the organization and tradition of the Institute. They do not exist, as one person present at the last Institute Committee meeting phrased it, primarily so "the Q Club and the sophomore class can badger the freshmen." However, in recent years freshman rules have served as little more than an excuse for a number of sophomores and upperclassmen to perform physical violence upon the new freshmen. With the outlawing of off-campus hazing, the popular tradition of "rides", has been done away with, leaving only actual physical punishment as the only form of hazing currently practiced.

Most of us still remember the forty-five cent assessment of 1952, which charged over four hundred dollars. The money was to be used to pay for damages incurred throughout the Institute prior to Field Day 1952, in the riots against the "harmless hazing" of freshmen.

It has become obvious that freshman rules as such have ceased to serve a worthwhile purpose. The physical damage done, both to persons and property, is far more than the value received.

As John Soller 56, Dormitory Council Chairman, put it, "everything that could be done by rules, can be done, and is done far better."

It is interesting to note that despite the close vote in Inscosom, those representatives most intimately connected with the problem of freshman orientation—the dormitory and freshman class representatives—were almost unanimously opposed to the creation of any new set of freshman rules. Impractical and ineffective for the new regulations came primarily from the fraternities, who have their own system of freshman hazing, independent of any school-wide regulations.

Although the issue was decided by the narrow margin of one vote, it is a decided victory for the representatives of the student body as a whole. We commend those members of the Institute Committee who have realized that freshman rules as such have failed in their purpose and should therefore be abolished. The suggestion that freshmen rules be abolished, as was the result of the P.F.C.C. report, then, is not a set-up of a system of freshmen ideals—on a non-compulsory basis. It is our feeling that such a system, even with an initial boost from its ardent supporters, will work no better in the long run than the Freshman Rules.

As a reaction to the P.F.C.C. report a motion was made to institute a new set of Freshman Rules, which was then unanimously eliminated. (Continued on page 53)

FOLKS WHO DRINK FOR ENJOYMENT prefer real beer!

The young lady's no lie! No brand of beer can make you feel like—or make you feel all by itself! The one big difference in beer today is its flavor, and flavor has no calories, so it can be boasted of with fancy claims about caloric and sugar and such. Look for flavor... drink the beer that's brewed for enjoyment—Schafer.