Dear Frosh...

You might suppose that we would accept a new class as just a routine procedure which occurs every September at RPI.

But somehow it doesn't work out that way. Your energy and enthusiasm are contagious. We too become enthusiastic, hopeful, eager for your success and we are perennially determined to do a better job for your class than has ever been done before.

My part in the scheme of things is to arrange a social program which provides as much fun as possible for you during your leisure time. I am well aware that 'boy meets girl' is of first importance so tea dances are held every Sunday to which girls from neighboring colleges are invited. I also work with the committees which sponsor the big dances such as IFC Ball, Armed Forces Ball, Saturnalia and Soirée.

In addition to this organized program I am only too happy to help you with a difficult letter, help choose a wedding pre-

sent, sew on a button or get you a blind date. Please do come to 205 whenever you feel I could be of assistance.

My very best wishes to each and every one of the class of '56, study hard, play hard and may you have four of the best years of your life.

Helen Liddle Warren
Director of Social Activities

The Year's Social Events

FRESHMAN CAMP

Freshman camp, your first activity at RPI, was set up mainly to provide fun and good fellowship for you and all the fellows who will be your friends for the next four years. Silver Bay on Lake George is the perfect setting for the many outdoor games which make up a major part of the three day program.

Each night the whole freshman class gathers for indoctrination speeches by several administrative and student leaders. The Grand Marshal, after emphasizing the importance of school spirit and traditions, has the privilege of introducing the class to that old favorite, "Ah Me, My Poor Freshie".

Group bull sessions following the assemblies give the frosh a chance to meet campus leaders and to get the real lowdown on school activities.

FROSH SMOKER

After a couple of weeks of getting used to the grind, the new class has its first social weekend, starting with the Smoker, Introduction to Sage, and Tug-of-War on Friday night. In the early evening, the whole class gathers in '87 Gym for free smokes, laughs, and entertainment. The usual magicians, comedians, and musicians are on hand, but the most popular act is always that of a curvaceous torch singer.

Led by the Grand Marshal and President of the Union the parade through Troy ends with a rendition of "Ah Me" in front of Sage Hall. Everyone then returns to North Field for the Tug-of-War. Although the frosh always win, they never seem to gain possession of the Beer Keg trophy.

PHALANX DANCE (Informal)

On the following Saturday night, after a home football game, Phalanx presents its annual blind date dance in '87 Gym. This gives all frosh a chance to meet possible future dates from Sage,
Skidmore, Green Mountain, Albany State, Emma Willard, and other schools. Dancing to the music of the Campus Serenaders, the new class has its first taste of Rensselaer social life.

**ASSEMBLIES**

At the beginning of each month, the Grand Marshal calls a general assembly for the entire student body in "87 Gym. Varsity teams are often presented before their big games, awards are made for managers, White Key, B.O.R., and other honoraries. Men from the administration often speak, and the Glee Club is usually on hand as part of the program.

**PEP RALLIES**

Each Friday night before a home football or lacrosse game, a group of spirited Engineers gathers on North Field to release their pent up energies by cheering on the Cheery and White varsity teams. The Band is on hand, as well as the Grand Marshal and Cheerleaders, who lead the songs and cheers. Rallies before Union games are extra special, and are often marked by torch-light processions.

**TEA DANCES (Informal)**

Almost any Sunday afternoon at Rensselaer will find a large group of Engineers dancing to the music of the Campus Serenaders with blind dates from the Troy area. Mrs. Warren does a great job in selecting groups of very fine young ladies as future dates.

**BRIDGE TOURNAMENT**

During the Fall term, Mrs. Warren also conducts a campus-wide bridge tournament for those with all degrees of skill. Lessons are also given both for the novice and the advanced player.

**INTERFRATERNITY BALL (Formal)**

The first big weekend of the school year, and the highlight of the fraternity social season is IF Ball. Held each year in early November, IF draws a capacity crowd to the Field House for a night of enjoyable dancing to the music of a big name orchestra.

The theme of the dance, usually based on the Harvest season, presents an opportunity for novel booths and decorations. Midnight intermission features the crowning of the IF Queen and the presentation of the previous year's scholarship awards.

IF Weekend is also noted for its terrific Friday night costume parties. All fraternities give out with their utmost efforts to produce the best decorations and party theme.

**ARMED FORCES BALL (Formal)**

Early in December, the three ROTC units collaborate to sponsor RPI's second formal of the year. Although Armed Forces has not yet reached the level of IF, Saturnalia, or Soirée, it is slowly gaining recognition as our fourth big weekend.

Stylish Military glamour is the keynote, with full dress uniforms, crack drill squad exhibitions, unit displays, and a Grand March.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Sunday night before Christmas recess is the time for the combined Rensselaer music groups to display the skill which has earned them widespread fame.

With the assistance of the Russel Sage choir, the Varsity Glee Club starts the program of Christmas spirit with its rendition of some of the more difficult Yuletide pieces. Before a very large crowd of students and townfolk, the Symphony Orchestra then makes one of its infrequent but well received appearances, playing a few beloved old time carols.

As a fitting close to the evening, everyone joins in the spirit with the hearty singing of most of our ever popular Christmas Carols.

**REVIEW COFFEE**

Mid-term reviews, the most grueling time of year, is a good time for students to relax and momentarily forget the coming exams. Seeing the evidence of this need, Mrs. Warren has set up a schedule of review coffee hours where students may relax and talk over their problems with members of the faculty.

**JUNIOR PROM (Formal)**

Snowflake Saturnalia, now the accepted name for Junior Prom Weekend, is rapidly becoming the most interesting and diversified big weekend at RPI. Hotly contested snow sculpturing, a winning hockey team, and the comparatively small strain on a student's finances are the factors which soon may increase the Prom to Soirée proportions.

After recovering from the Friday night fraternity blasts, the Engineer and his date have all sorts of activities awaiting them.
on Saturday. Many attend the Outing Club ski meet or take pictures of the winning snow creations.

Suppers and cocktail parties precede the dance in '87 Gym, which by then has been magically transformed into a star-lit winter rendezvous. Danceable music and ingenious punch booths provide the entertainment before intermission, at which time the Queen is chosen and the weekend's awards are made.

**FROSH FLING (Informal)**

By March, the frosh have gained enough social grace to present their annual Fling. Though it is small and informal, it develops the necessary know how for successful big dances in the following years.

**NAVY BALL (Formal)**

Exclusive and fashionable are the words for the Navy ROTC's annual formal just before Spring recess. Naval etiquette and tradition are in order for the receiving line and popular Junior Ring Dance.

**GRAND MARSHAL WEEK**

Some Monday morning in April, the freshman's eyes will pop. The familiar campus has been changed into a whirlwind of campaign signs, blaring PA's, and promises of free beer. Grand Marshal Week is on, and classes become secondary as the Combine, Alliance, and Independent parties clash in hopes of victory for their GM and PU candidates. After election results are made public on Friday night, a huge parade composed of fraternity floats goes through downtown Troy and ends at North Field for a tremendous beer party.

**MUSIC AND PARENTS WEEKEND**

Late in April, Interfraternity Council sponsors a combined Music Festival and Parent's Weekend. The varsity Glee Club, Band, and Orchestra give public recitals, and on Sunday afternoon, the competitive IF Songfest is held.

Visiting parents get a chance to see school facilities, a lacrosse game, and other Institute activities.

**TAP DAY**

Saturday afternoon, during the half-time program of the lacrosse game on Soirée weekend, Phalanx conducts its annual tapping ceremonies. Forming a rectangle on the field, gradu-