

Revolt?

Navy Pier Chafes At Downstate Rule

By **ROGER EBERT**
Editor

CHICAGO — Students at the University of Illinois Navy Pier division talk impatiently of "rebellion" against "downstate control."

And they claim that within a few years after completion of the new four-year Chicago undergraduate campus, they will have their own "independent" university.

"We've been getting the short end of the deal for 15 years from the Urbana campus," one student said. "We've gotten terrible facilities, poor study conditions and almost every possible handicap against getting a good education."

Another said that Chicago students on the Urbana campus, by their very numbers, are all that give the downstate campus its great edge in influence over Navy Pier in policy matters.

"When the Chicago students stay in Chicago, the balance will shift," he promised.

One professor, who expressed much the same view, said this shift of enrollment might be something the University actually desires. "It's getting almost impossible to support good undergraduate and graduate divisions on the same campus," he said.

"The Chicago campus will help take the pressure off and allow room for expansion of the graduate program."

Much of the apparently antagonistic feeling here against "down-state rule" has grown up because the Navy Pier division has been left in its "hole" so long, members of the PIER ILLINI student newspaper staff told me.

"We've been put off by too many excuses for too long," one member said. "We probably have more reason to distrust the city than the university, but we're suspicious of both now."

When told that most students at the Urbana campus would be surprised to learn that Navy Pier has grown so far away from its "mother school," a faculty member said, "sure they would. They

(Continued on page 3, col. 4)

Navy Pier 'Revolt'?

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4)

don't hear our complaints because no one listens. I'm convinced they're hoping we'll wear out after a while."

Much of the hard feeling against the downstate campus, one student said, is caused because of the "rich people" who go there. "Students at Navy Pier are more hard-headed and practical," he said. "We don't have the money to go downstate, so we commute and try to struggle along. We don't have all the parties and college spirit they have down there."

Feeling against the Navy Pier facilities — where truck drivers often honk at lecturers — is so heated that students are bitter about any opposition to the proposed Harrison-Halstead site for a new Chicago campus.

One cartoon in the PIER ILLINI, depicting the Halsted neighborhood homeowners, showed them as demented, gap-toothed

slum dwellers with illiterate signs and Nazi armbands. One Chicago student, asked about historic Hull House, on the site of the proposed campus, advocated tearing it down without delay.

"If it holds things up any longer, we might even bomb it," he suggested facetiously.

Can the ill-feeling against the "mother school" be overcome? "Yes," a PIER ILLINI staffer admitted. "But the longer we stay in these facilities, the harder it will be. Given equal facilities, we're willing to work with downstate. But we're growing more impatient every day."

And meanwhile, ocean-going ships blast their whistles at pier-sideside, and those truck drivers still honk at lecturers.