

THE COLUMBUS SMOKE-OUT

The pattern *VERB* + *in* by which nouns can be formed from verbs to denote a group gathering has been a part of American English for several years. *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate* gives 1937 for *sit-in*, which that dictionary relates to the older *sit-down*. Probably patterned on *sit-in*, such forms as *wade-in*, *kneel-in*, *love-in*, and *be-in* became common in the 1960s (*OEDS*, s.v. *-in*, suffix³).

The productivity of this pattern is still evident in the 1980s. A recent *Newsweek* article ("Busting the Beer Bust," 29 Oct. 1984, 96) outlining attempts to restrict the beer bust as a form of socializing on college campus says that students at Southern Methodist University "who thought they were being unfairly punished in the wake of a few boisterous parties, staged a rather messy 'drink-in.'" The *Columbus Dispatch* (16 Dec. 1984, 68) reports that "residents of [Cleveland's] West Side, disturbed by plans to close their neighborhood Sears, Roebuck and Co. store, have planned a 'shop-in' there." On 12 May 1984 a Yippie group rallied in Columbus, Ohio, at the Statehouse, in support of the decriminalization of marijuana (it was advertised that free samples would be passed out). Some organizers announced the event as a "smoke-in" (observed, for example, on a notice on a lamppost and as a graffito on a city bus).

For that occasion, in addition to the designation *smoke-in*, the term *smoke-out* was used. This term seems to be an ironic inversion, possibly modelled on other derived nouns with *X-out*, such as *pig-out* or *cook-out*, or based on the verb-particle combination *smoke out*. As such, *smoke-out* is another indication that the *VERB* + *in* pattern is still productive.

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