

Editorial Opinion

Student Rights

This year Penn State is operating under a new discipline system, which is designed to involve faculty, administration, and students in matters of conduct. The Behrend Campus Policy Committee was established in conjunction with this new system. Its purpose is to establish local rules as needed at Behrend and to recommend improvements and revisions of the discipline system and the Code of Conduct.

The Policy Committee held its first meeting during common hour on Oct. 31. Members are: Dean Lane, Dr. Tucker, Mr. Hover, John Johnston and Pam Babcock. Rule no. 2 in the Code of Conduct was discussed (violations of local, state, or federal law on University property, or off campus when such violation of the law has an adverse effect upon the University or upon individual members of the University Community).

It was discovered that double jeopardy does exist as a legally supported decision. A suggestion was made to modify Rule no. 2 by clarifying it with statements from the Student Bill of Rights and the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms. Possibly a more precise statement on what Rule no. 2 means could be published in next year's student handbook. It

was also suggested that the Policy Committee arrange for the University lawyer to come up to Behrend and talk to students about what rights they do and do not have.

At this point, the discipline system is new, the Policy Committee is new—and we're counting on YOU to let us know about problems that arise from the new system. If you think there needs to be a change in the Code of Conduct or the discipline system, put it in writing and give it to one of the members of the Policy Committee. If you can't find a member, put your recommendation in the SGA mailbox. The Policy Committee wants your suggestions.

This is a unique opportunity for the suggestions of concerned faculty administration and students to be an important factor—even a determining one—in how students are disciplined. Besides written requests, the Policy Committee also plans on having an open meeting during spring term to listen to recommendations from faculty administration and students. For once, Behrend, let's not be apathetic. Wait a minute—forget that last statement. Go ahead and be your usual unconcerned, uninterested self. Just don't complain, if and when you think you've been screwed.

Do Students Choose Priorities?

By Margie Campbell

Due to the activities going on at Behrend and the surrounding areas (Which do go on if you want to do something) one is obliged to make many decisions regarding one's priorities towards studying and leisure activities. For example, the other day I was talking to someone who was trying to decide whether to study for a Spanish midterm or go to the Yes Concert. His process of rationalization was "I know I should study for the Spanish midterm, because I want to get a good grade—not just a decent grade. But I really want to see Yes." Taking into consideration basic needs such as sleep and eating, he was still contemplating a decision when I left. But this exemplifies the question of priorities. How many of us have put a project off, only to do it the night before it is due?

Having attended many activities on and off campus and not seeing many familiar faces from Behrend, I wonder, did most everyone choose to do their studying? However, upon returning to the dorms, I find most of my friends talking, listening to records, or playing cards, and an occasional murmur

travels through the group, "I should be studying." This is a minor decision regarding priorities, but isn't college ideally supposed to be a time combining leisure and educational activities, hoping to develop guidelines for choosing priorities later in life? Opportunities are offered which are vital to both social and educational growth, and although easy to define, choosing between them is not as simple.

A professor of mine was describing the classroom situation, as being conducive to both leisure and education. A student is free to sleep, daydream, or listen to the lecture, it is an individual choice. Being an 8:00 class, I had difficulty deciding what my priority should be. It was not as hard deciding what I wanted it to be.

A constant struggle exists regarding expectations—our own, our parents, our teachers,—and our basic desires—for social fulfillment and fun. The responsibility for completing an assignment is placed on the student, and attendance is not mandatory, so therefore a student must make a decision on what is of greatest importance to him. The college scene is much

more liberal than most of the high schools we've attended previously, and for the freshmen, the adjustment to the new freedom isn't easy. And many upperclassmen have not as yet defined many of their priorities.

The first step in establishing priorities is to realize that we're in college but why are we here? What do we expect to "get out" of college? Job training? A degree? A spouse? Are we using college as a means of escape from home, job, people, or other conflicting factors?

College is basically what one wants it to be. It only offers what it can and depends upon the individual to have the maturity to use it the way one feels is proper.

All U Day

Sorority and Frat Housing

Several fraternities will be holding Open House November 11, "ALL-U-DAY." The purpose is to expose Commonwealth Campus men to Penn State Fraternity life. It is hoped that this will interest transfer students to expose themselves to frat life when they arrive at the University Park campus.

Passes are required to gain entrance to the Houses. Application forms must be brought to the Interfraternity Council (IFC) on November 11. There the student will be given his pass. These passes are required because many years ago, some frats had their walls stripped of plaques and trophies by unknown visiting students.

Men who did not receive applications may fill one out at the IFC office (second floor, HUB) upon their arrival at University Park.

Along other lines, some frats have inaugurated a fall "Move-In" Program for interested men. One can move into the frat house of his choice for one term. If he decides he likes it, he may be allowed to pledge. If not, he is not bound to the frat and may leave to move into a dorm or apartment.

A possible "Move-In" program is currently being considered.

The Panhellenic Council also intends to sponsor a tour of their sororities.

Panhel is the name of the central committee of the Pennsylvania State University Sororities. Panhel has and will continue to send out letters to all Commonwealth Campus girls. These contain information about the 19 sororities located at University Park. At present there are no sororities at any branch campuses. Hopefully, this will arouse the interest of many women towards joining a sorority when they transfer to University Park.

The Panhel Chairwoman will assign several hundred names to each representative of the sororities. The representatives will then send out the brochures to all of these women. Whenever the women visit University Park, they may seek out a sorority and obtain a first hand view of sorority life.

On "ALL-U-DAY," all visiting women from Commonwealth Campuses are invited to come to the sororities, attend the football game, and swing at a frat party or the Rock Concert.

Letters to the Editor

Much has been said repeatedly about "student apathy" this, and "student apathy" that. All these labels being attached by "responsible" people, people who work long and hard on "worthwhile" projects. I feel that it is about time that someone took an objective look at just what these worthwhile projects are.

The JRC is pushing hard for 24 hour visitation extensions, now the dorm students are all in favor of achieving that goal, but the SGA will not take any constructive steps to aid the JRC in this endeavor. Why? Because the SGA feels that they have more important issues which have to be dealt with. Such as setting judicial machinations which will help the students become involved in Behrend. The JRC wants the students to get over their "apathy" by becoming involved in dorm reform, and the SGA wants the students to be "unapathetic" by becoming involved in student politics. Both organizations are trying to achieve the same purpose, student involvement, but both organizations are too myopic to see past their own noses.

Maybe the answer to the problem of student apathy is a knowledge on the part of student organizations about when to act and how to act. If the students are involved in a particular issue already, then that involvement should not be ignored by any organization because it does not conform to the particular involvement that that organization had in mind, rather the organization should be sensitive enough to gauge the desires of the students and act upon them. Then, after that particular issue is resolved, attention can be turned to other issues—you help me and I'll help you.

We're all in one boat together, nothing will be achieved by getting on opposite sides of the boat, paddling in different directions, and yelling for the

group in the middle to help one side or the other.

Why is it that the student body can be led blindly in a cause, spurred on by sensationalism, jumping on the band wagon, and not really know what factors are involved? Take for example the case of the library. Due to much student inspiration, the library issue, comprised of the minimum hours and inadequate book supply, appears to be as case of the student body vs. the library staff, vs. the administration. The truth is that until appropriations are made by the state legislature in Harrisburg, everyone's hands are tied. Right now the University is operating on an 80 million dollar budget, all of which is borrowed money, and is awaiting the allotment of funds from the state. We are now into half of the fiscal year and have to yet hear from Harrisburg.

Now that Behrend has the status of a four-year college, one would hope that the appropriations would reflect this change. The plans for the new academic complex and the new library building can be made, but until we have money to work with, they're just plans. Instead of fighting for a cause such as this with people that are powerless at the time, or who are attempting to bring about change as well, why not work with the people who can do the most good? Write to the state legislature about the appropriations.

The first step in effectively supporting a cause is to work through the people controlling the situation. It appears that not all of the student body at Behrend is apathetic to the situation of Behrend and the total system of the Pennsylvania State University. Therefore use your concern properly and appeal to the people who can best or who at least have the power, to implement the changes desired.

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or delete portions of all letters for publication purposes.

All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Term standing, major, and hometown must be included.

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