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Keeping steady pace

SGA determined

By Paul A. Corbran
Editor-in-Chief

The SGA has kept a steady pace, in the weeks following Christmas break. Though there isn't the hard driving attitude of the beginning of the term, there is still the air of determination to finish work on the specific goals illustrated at that time.

This week's meeting was called to order on Monday at 7:40 p.m. Mike Woods made some comments on a number of organizations who now have their funds impounded because of not

complying with the non-discriminatory act, in their constitutions. Anyone who has not amended their constitution, and presented it to the SGA, has, as of now, no funds until they do so.

Jo Ann Bruno, SGA Treasurer, presented a new policy for reimbursement of funds to members on business trips. This policy will apply to all members of the SGA and organizations sponsored by SGA.

Mike Woods again spoke up on the Spring Arts festival and getting a committee working on it

as soon as possible. All interested people should contact Mike Woods or Jay DiFrank.

Other topics touched upon were the purchase of a new typewriter for the SGA office, a fund-raising activity for PSL funding and the free university. Mike McCarthy also commented on the progress on the Commuter Council. The Commuter Council met after the SGA meeting and decided to set up booths in order to answer questions and receive input from the students. The council needs student interest in order to facilitate its institution.

In open business, George Spiegel dominated the floor by making a motion on the establishment of a "Teacher of the Year" award. There was some discussion on the subject and the motion was voted on and passed. Mr. Spiegel, again, made a motion that the SGA put a charge of 5 cents on the Collegian. There was some discussion on this and it was decided that that motion be tabled until more information could be gathered.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Saxophone soloist

Frederick Hemke, classical saxophonist, will be appearing with the Erie Philharmonic String Orchestra at Behrend on Wednesday, January 21. (See story page 4).

UP dorm procedures

A new procedure for assigning students to University Park residence halls, giving all categories of student applicants equal opportunity for the spaces available, was announced last month by Pennsylvania State University officials, the plan to be effective next Fall.

Ralph E. Zilly, vice-president for business, and Dr. Raymond O. Murphy, vice-president for student affairs, also outlined a plan to increase residence halls capacity by 1,000 spaces, the increase to be accomplished by converting certain residence hall areas into student living facilities and by assigning three students to the larger double rooms and two students to the larger single rooms.

Reduced rates for students assigned to such rooms are planned, Mr. Zilly said.

The new assignment system was developed after a detailed study by University officials and student groups, the study prompted by shortage problems that arose last Fall when more than 15,000 students applied for the 11,500 spaces available and priority under the system then in effect went to residence hall occupants at University Park, leaving little opportunity for transfer and other students.

After deducting spaces reserved for freshmen, required to live in residence halls, and other designated groups, such as sororities with suites in the residence halls, the rooms will be assigned in accordance with the percentage of applicants in each of four major groups. Priority within each group will be determined by the sequence of the filing of the application.

The groups are students currently living in the University Park residence halls; Commonwealth Campus, Behrend College and Capitol Campus students transferring to University Park; students on practicums, student teaching or in foreign studies programs; and students residing off campus, and students returning from leaves of absence.

Behrend students eligible for change of assignment to University Park for the Fall Term 1976 may secure "Request for Residence Hall Contract" cards from the Records Office (Main Building) beginning Monday, January 12.

Students desiring room and board information and contract cards for University Park Campus should complete a request card and mail it to the University Park Assignment Office.

On February 20, 1976, contract cards and related information will be mailed from University

Park to each student who has filed a request card as of that date.

Beginning March 11, 1976, contract cards with a \$45.00 advance payment are to be filed at a designated office on the Behrend College campus. The location of the office designated will be posted in the Records Office and the Reed Building TV Lounge in advance of March 11.

Roommate requests can best be honored if both students' contracts are submitted together as early as possible.

Consideration for assignment will be determined by the date contracts are validated. Assignments will be processed in that sequence as long as space is available.

If there are more contracts validated than spaces available, students will be notified no later than April 16, 1976, that their contract will be cancelled and the \$45.00 Advance Payment will be refunded.

In the recent past, residence space at University Park has been in short supply. Students are urged to submit a request card to University Park as quickly as possible. Current information on procedures will be available at all times in the Records Office.



Mark Twain at Behrend?

Coming to Behrend on January 20 is 19 year old Scott L. Brown who will perform an excellent character portrayal of Mark Twain. (See Story page 3).

Message from the President

Dr. John W. Oswald

Pres., Penn State University

In the fall term I indicated that from time to time I would address an open letter to our Penn State student body concerning matters in which students had expressed particular interest. Four topics which have been of special concern recently will be referred to today.

New Housing Policy

Student housing provided by the University has been in great demand in recent years and an equitable method of selection for housing assignment at University Park has now been approved which basically includes the provisions recommended by student groups. The proposed

lottery system for applications will not be used but rather an equitable opportunity for past residents, for Commonwealth Campus students, for new students is provided. The plan is based on a "first come, first served" premise within categories established in size by number of applications. Applications can be made at a number of locations at University Park and at all campuses. The system provides more certainty and dependability for planning than would a lottery. I commend the very positive and productive work of many students, especially the representatives of the Association of Residence Hall Students, in working out the complicated details of housing assignment procedures. This has been a most encouraging example of cooperative effort on the part of all persons and agencies affecting decisions important to students.

Academic Calendar

The calendar of classes is another interest of special importance to students, and discussion on this topic throughout the University by students, faculty, and administration has been thorough and complicated. The primary question regarding the calendar centers on the retention of the term system or changing to a semester. When I came to Penn State in 1970, many students expressed concern about finishing too late in June to secure summer jobs, and in 1973 an adjustment was made in the term calendar—to open the academic year early in the fall with students completing the spring term by late May. This arrangement had a disadvantage of the winter term being split by the holiday recess in December; but indications are that the longer the period of instruction before the break, the less the objection. I have now taken into consideration the many representations on the calendar decision, including two contradictory reports of a University Calendar Commission that studied the matter for two years. There is no consensus among the faculty on the semester-term issue but students have over-

whelmingly stated preference for the term system. There appears to be no conclusive evidence of over-all educational advantage to either system; certain curricula and certain courses to fit more advantageously to one or the other. I have also carefully reviewed the system to another, two registrations instead of three, and potential teaching adjustment costs. Essentially the costs offset each other and the financial factor is a stand-off. Careful consideration has been given to shutting down for a winter period with either a semester or term system but though some facilities could be closed with some savings in fuel costs, other costs for research and faculty would continue; and further, any such long break in a term calendar in the winter would require an extension into June.

Given all these considerations I informed the University Faculty Senate Tuesday, December 9, of my intentions to extend the present term system for a five-year period beginning with the summer term of 1977 and extending to the fall of 1982. The calendar will include the following basic elements.

- A term system as at present
- The academic year opening with fall registration and orientation prior to Labor Day with the first day of classes the day after Labor Day.
- The fall term completed prior to Thanksgiving with the winter term providing as close as possible three weeks of instruction prior to Christmas break
- The spring term ending toward the middle of May with Commencement in the last week of May; and
- In accordance with my interpretation of the Senate action regarding final examinations in essentially all courses, there will be a six-day period scheduled for final examinations after each term.

I told the Senate that I am intending to publish the new five-year calendar containing these basic elements about April 1, 1976. I indicated to them that if

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