

# That's Beside The Point

or - Rah Ra

Stow away - fly away. Somedays I feel like I don't belong on this campus, in this town, on this continent, in this age. Sometimes I feel like I'd be more comfortable in Victorian England, sipping tea with the Duchess of Double-dutch, or hunting with hounds, riding sidesaddle, long skirts keeping counter-rhythm with the gallop, slapping the side of the horse, the organdy scratching my knees. Getting up at noon, dressing until one-thirty, visiting until five, resting until nine, dining at ten, dancing until three. Being presented to the queen, falling in love with the second son of a country-gentleman.

Or - sneaking into the pavilion, hiding behind a pillar, straining to hear every word that Socrates has to say. Scared to admit to my parents why a ten-year-old disappears every day after cleaning up the leather shop and eating my piece of bread for breakfast. Hard to tell them where I go since girls aren't supposed to have the capacity to understand men's talk. But Socrates puts things so plainly that even I can understand the general idea that he's trying to work out.

Or - starting with the heel and rolling my foot onto the ground so that the toe is the last part to touch the dirt. Learning to stalk a buffalo without disturbing the birds that keep watch for the herd. Preparing my body and my spirit for the walk in the sky that will show the tribe that I can join the young hunters without bringing shame to my family. Meeting Green-feather by the stream, talking of the old days when the spirits came and visited our tribe and helped us

make good laws. Drying gut in the sun for a new bow-string.

Or - Lifting my arms in celebration of the new day. The Nile has receded and soon the people will plant and food will again be plentiful for everyone. Trying to pick just the right words for the prayer in the ceremony tomorrow. Something that will show our Pharaoh is the son of Ra, and therefore responsible for the good omens that indicate such a prosperous year. Time for the morning chant - RA, SON OF THE SUN, WATCHER FOR OUR PEOPLE, LET YOUR WISDOM SHINE ON US, LET YOUR RADIANCE BE SHOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND. (The rays sparkle on the sand) LET YOUR BLESSINGS FALL ON US AS DOES YOUR WARMTH (and makes the black hair on my uplifted arms turn to brightest obsidian) LET THIS SEASON BE FULL OF FOOD AND HAPPINESS (dazzles my eyes) AND FORTUNE FOR THE PHARAOH (and I lift my mind to the sky) AND FOR HIS PRIESTS (let it start to ride through time) AND ALL HIS PEOPLE (through the hurricane's eye, through the center of the poppy, through the sun) AND MAY PEACE BE KEPT WITHIN OUR LAND (upwards and inwards to another body) AND WITH OUR NEIGHBORING LANDS (the body of a young woman sitting in a square building and thinking of me) MAY THE GOODNESS OF YOUR RAYS MAKE THIS A BETTER DAY (and wondering how I felt during my time as Ra's priest, but she doesn't realize that she is me and I am her and together with the sun, we can be a universe.

- Samantha Bower

# Ratings

UNIVERSITY PARK (APS) - Results of a survey on academic advising from 11 of 18 Commonwealth Campuses show a "vigorous spirit of advising" which is lacking at the campus level, according to John Casciotti, University Council member from the Altoona Campus.

Rating their advisors, 19% of the students classified their advisors as Excellent; 35% as Fair; 15% as Poor; and 3% as Terrible. According to Casciotti, the mean is 3.46 - midway between Fair and Good - when the results are put on a 5-4-3-2-1 scale for comparison.

61% of the students surveyed said their advisor was helpful in determining what courses to schedule; 30% said they were not helpful; the remainder were unsure.

In discussing career possibilities, 32% said their advisors were helpful while 50% said they were not. The remainder were undecided.

A greater majority (55%) said their advisors were not helpful in discussing other academic or non-academic problems; 33% said their advisors were helpful; the remainder were unsure.

As an overall observation by the students surveyed, 18% said their campus put a good deal of emphasis on quality academic advising; 36% classified their campus emphasis as "some"; 46% said "not nearly enough" emphases was being given at their campus.

Casciotti also surveyed students, looking for opinion differences according to class, degree candidacy, college, campus and sex. He said that sophomores were "more critical of their advisor's help in scheduling courses and giving career advice, but many fewer freshmen were helped with other academic or non-academic problems."

There was very little difference between baccalaureate and associate degree students, according to the survey.

66% of the males surveyed said they felt their advisor was helpful in determining courses. Females reacted with 43% feeling that their advisors were of help.

Casciotti said that the students from the College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts generally were "noticeably below the other colleges" surveyed (Engineering, Science, Liberal Arts, Education, Business Administration and Human Development).

From the results of the survey, Casciotti concluded that "the largest one or two and the smallest one or two campuses almost always ranked below the others..."

Casciotti said he took the survey in conjunction with the University Council's study of academic advising.

"I see the results not as proof or disproof of anything, but simply as general indicators to consider," he said.

# Youth Vie For Convention Seats

by Yvonne Pearson

Yvonne Pearson is Dispatch's correspondent in Washington.

Washington, D.C.-DNSI-Youth now control the Democratic machinery of at least two of Alaska's four districts, according to Senator Mike Gravel's (D. Alaska) office, and may control the entire state delegation by the time they get to Miami. The spokesman said: "The youth caught everybody with their mouth's hanging open."

All over the country young people are becoming convention delegates in unprecedented numbers. They are not handpicked by regular party officials, but people "elected by the grass roots process, the likes of which we've never seen in this country," said the director of the McGovern Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, Bob Nelson.

Set up in 1968, the Commission is the key to youth's new access to the party's nominating machinery. It calls for proportional representation of persons' under thirty, officially termed "youth", in each state's delegation to the national convention.

The results have been no more dramatic than in Alaska.

"In ten days in March the entire structure of the Democratic Party was changed," said Bob Allen, President of the Young Democratic Clubs of American, after an on the scene inspection of the selection process. Allen was called to Alaska by Alaska's young Democrats to observe a Juneau precinct caucus meeting in case of credential challenges.

When party regulars discovered they were outnumbered by youth two to one at an earlier caucus, they closed the meeting and asked police to clear the floor. "Many felt it was Chicago again," said one of the youth leaders.

Party regulars recruited an extra 100 people for the rescheduled meeting, only to find that the youth had also doubled their numbers.

Other states are feeling the youth's power in their delegate selection as well.

One-third of Arizona's delegation to the Democratic convention in Miami is under 30, the youngest 17, according to Bob Allen. There were no people under 30 in this delegation in the last convention.

In Georgia the state chairman of the Democratic party, traditionally a convention

delegate, was not elected a delegate this year.

Although many feel that participation by youth will create confusion at July's convention and weaken the Democratic party, they say the result will be a stronger and better party to meet the '76 elections.

Mike Cole, former Voting Rights National Coordinator for Common Cause who has overseen many youth registration challenges in court, said that some young people may be turned off by this year's confusion of new by-laws and rules, but most of these questions will be resolved by '76 and the infusion of new blood will strengthen the party.

# Pollution Control

The Capitol Campus of The Pennsylvania State University will host a water pollution control seminar on Friday, April 28.

The seminar, open to the public, will be presented by the Water Management Division of Calgon Corp. at 9:00 a.m. in the campus auditorium.


The presentations will include "The Pragmatics of Water Pollution," "New Techniques and Processes in Water Pollution" and "Pros and Cons of the Turkey Approach in Water Pollution Control."

Engineers and others interested in water pollution control are invited to attend.




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