

Evacuation - without - penalization

On Thurs., October 18, there was a meeting of the Provost's Advisory Committee on Student Welfare in the Gallery Lounge. Discussion was focused on whether or not there should be a recognized, formal plan that would allow members of the campus community to leave the area without being penalized academically or financially in the event of further radiation emissions from TMI.

The idea of a formal plan was originated and proposed to the administration by students. For 40 minutes, student members of the committee debated with the administration on the need for a formal plan. Provost/Dean Dr. Gross said he saw no need for such a plan. When questioned as to why he felt a plan was unnecessary, Gross said "Trust me." Gross explained to the students on the committee that the campus community should have faith in the decisions the administration would make regarding the campus community's welfare in connection with TMI and any other issues of campus-wide concern.

Student members of the committee did not agree that trusting the administration was the solution to the problem of penalization if the campus community is faced with the decision of leaving or staying.

When the Provost finally agreed to the drafting of a plan, he made it clear that the plan would only be tentative and not binding. And, still trying to maneuver his way out of any responsibility for the plan, he asked that members of the Student

Government Association draft the plan. The student members of the committee responded negatively to the Provost's suggestion, and demanded in turn, that the administration draft the plan.

With many smiles and several long glances at Dr. Jerry South, director of Student Affairs, (one would assume that Gross was indicating that South would draft the plan), the Provost agreed that the administration would draft the plan and that it would be submitted to the SGA for approval. It was also decided that Kathy Strakosch, a resident student, be included on the drafting committee as a student advisor. The plan should be submitted to the SGA in the immediate future.

It is no surprise, that Dr. Gross does not believe it is necessary to have a plan stipulating what will and will not be guaranteed to the members of the campus community, if they find it necessary to leave during possible future radiation emissions. After all, the TMI accident has become an academic game for Capitol Campus's Administration. It seems to be a matter of who shall we promote this month and who shall we turn away.

Of course the administration offers excellent reasons for their decisions on who may or may not speak on campus: we're only a small campus (with very big ideas of creating a university presence in the Harrisburg Area), and we have such little physical space.

The administration also of-

fered relevant and appropriate reasons for rejecting the idea of an evacuation-without-penalization plan in the event of radioactive emissions. The reasoning went like this: the campus has no plans for floods, earthquakes, tornadoes and the like, so why should there be one for a nuclear power plant disaster.

Of course this response does not speak directly to the issue at hand—plans of evacuation-without-penalization during radioactive emissions. Nevertheless, it does raise a disturbing question:

How can nuclear disasters be compared to natural disasters? A flood or tornado is visible, thus individuals are more able to act to protect themselves. Radiation from a nuclear accident is invisible and its dispersion is unpredictable. Thus people must rely on the authorities to warn them of imminent danger and to develop plans for protecting them while minimizing the physical, psychological and financial costs as much as possible. The Provost's analogy is flawed in yet another way. The chances of a flood or tornado occurring in the next few months are low. But the chances of the public being exposed to another dangerous release of radiation from TMI within the same period are quite high.

We hope that the administration will recognize the special status of nuclear disasters and give the TMI situation special and prompt attention. The Reader agrees with the idea Dr. Gross has expressed so often—that individuals should have an opinion on nuclear energy. Perhaps, Dr. Gross could agree with the position of the C.C. Reader that the individuals in the campus community should be given the opportunity to act in accordance with their opinions, without penalization from a university which says it has no opinion on nuclear energy. Evacuation-without-penalization is necessary and must become a binding agreement between the administration and all members of the campus community. Any compromise is unacceptable.



Just in case you haven't heard

Hopefully, students have noticed posters hanging all over the place informing returning students that preregistration for the Winter term 1980 is until Nov. 14. The Master Schedule for the Winter Term outlines preregistration procedures on pg. 14 for grads, and pg. 16 for under grads.

The one thing the Master Schedule does not state is what happens after the Records Office receives the preregistration material. Well, what happens is: the green cards listing the desired courses are placed in boxes by term and in the order in which they are received. When preregistration is over the courses will be given out by term (starting with term 12) and in the order of earliest received within the specific terms, to the last green card received.

With this system, preference is still given to those with the highest term standing and on a first come first serve basis.

The one thing which has been eliminated by this preregistration method (several handshakes and pats on the back to the initiators) are those damnable long and tedious winding lines of frustrated students.

Inaccurate word choices

The C.C. Reader would like to apologize to the Black Students on campus for using the word "fear" in last issue's editorial. The Reader wrongly assumed that "fear" characterized the feelings of Black Students. Unfortunately, the Reader did not ask Black Students what it was they felt.

In the time since the last issue, the Reader has talked with Ms. Earlette Slaughter, who was president of BSU at the time of the proposed White Student Union. Ms. Slaughter pointed out that the word "fear" has the negative connotations of uneducated, black people huddled, shaking in a corner refusing to defend themselves. This stereotypical image is obviously not the case for Black Students on campus. Ms. Slaughter said that a better and more accurate word would be "anger."

Ms. Slaughter also pointed out that the paragraph about the relationships between White Students and Black Students was unclear in its meaning. She said that it is not accurate to say that relationships between White and Black Students are disatisfying, but that they are strained.

Again we apologize for our errors caused by our insensitivities to Black Culture. We hope our word choice has not greatly offended anyone.

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The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of the C.C. Reader staff.

This drawing is Trevor Kondor's artistic impression of the actor portraying Edgar Allan Poe in the play "Tell Tale Poe," which was performed last Saturday night. Trevor is a six-year old first grader who lives in the York Area. He is the son of C.C. Reader photographer and writer Mike Kondor.

