

Anti-Nukes Education Urged

Campus Digest News Service

With all the talk around the country of a grassroots movement against continued nuclear weapons development, some educators are accusing colleges and universities with not paying enough attention to the threat of nuclear war.

Yale University professor of psychiatry Robert Lifton says there is a wave of concern about nuclear-weapons education and very little discussion has come from students or faculty on the subject.

At a recent gathering in Washington, Lifton and other panelists called for widespread academic involvement in debates over arms control, disarmament, proliferation of nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war.

The panelists agreed that the issues of nuclear war were beginning to generate interest in U.S. colleges and universities, but that it's a belated interest. They pointed out the interest did not come from within the institutions themselves.

The tremendous public outcry building around the country, especially in local governments, has been credited with bringing the nuclear freeze movement to national attention.

At colleges and universities, such attention has led to teach-ins, spon-

sored by the Union of Concerned Scientists, at 150 campuses last fall. As a result of those meetings, a new organization was formed called the United Campuses to Prevent Nuclear War. The organization sees itself as a coordinator of a national education directed at preventing nuclear war.

Another 250 colleges and universities are scheduled to hold teach-ins this spring, and the organization plans on even more activity this fall near election time.

A spokesman for the organization said people may see demonstrations in the streets again, similar to those recently held in Europe. But he warned that mass protests may not be enough, and may not even be useful.

The question of academic objectivity was raised at the Washington conference with some concern about mixing educational advocacy of political positions. Many educators do not think their role is one of indoctrination, but rather of giving understanding of a complex issue.

Still, panelists called for appropriate passion in the university setting. Yale's Lifton said that a combination of passionate opposition to nuclear weapons and rigorous scholarship and research on their effects on modern society would result in their intellectual work becoming a significant moral and political act.



"NOW, THIS ROAD WILL MAKE A GREAT MOTOCROSS COURSE!"

"Philosophers' " Roundtable

By Phil Intrieri

What club has no charter, no budget, no president, has an office located in the smoking section of the Lion's Den? What other than the Drunken Luncheon Society? This club meets informally about every three weeks at local bars and restaurants. Its purpose, according to "corresponding secretary" Ed McGovern, is "to promote an atmosphere of intellectual stimulation through exploratory conversation." I suppose that means they get drunk.

"Not really," says Ed. "A few drinks helps loosen the conversation. Of course, some get looser than others." The attraction is not just the alcohol, though, as Ed points out.

"Actually, we're more of a debating club than a drinking club. We've discussed everything from adultery to the Falklands crisis. In fact, our board of directors (which seems to include almost every member) was thinking about changing the name. Instead, we've decided to just go by the initials D.L.S. This can be interpreted as the Debating Luncheon Society."

How did such a distinctive club get started? As Karen Grimm remembers, "The founding members met in Dr. Bressler's Constitutional Law class. One day we decided to go out for a drink. As our meetings became more frequent, members began to bring friends. The club's constitution was implemented by verbal agreement one afternoon at Marabella's."

The verbal constitution is one clue to the club's informality. In fact, there are

few rules. One rule is that no one is personally insulted while debating. Another rule, as Karen jokes, "is to read books with small print and big words."

Another clue to the club's informality is the fact there is no president. There are, however, co-chairwomen—Carol Sherman and Kerrie Bjorkstedt. The duties of a co-chairwoman, as Carol outlines, "are to coordinate meeting times so they fit into the members' work and school schedules. We also bring up topics for debate and decide which bars and restaurants to meet at."

Kerrie claims the job has become more complex as the D.L.S. membership has grown. The club became popular, according to Kerrie, "because a lot of us came back to school after starting but not finishing our education. Some of us pursued other interests after high school." Kerrie, for instance, became an R.N. and was a homemaker for 12 years before deciding to earn a behavioral sciences degree at C. C. "It just seemed natural for us to get together," she explains.

But the membership includes those who've gone directly from high school to college also. One such student, Tony Magaro, describes why the D.L.S. appeals to him. "Not only do I like the debates, but I enjoy the parties and picnics, too."

Whether you call it the Debating Luncheon Society or the Drunken Luncheon Society, it seems that this club will be around for a long time. In fact, Ed is sure that clubs like the D.L.S. are popular everywhere. As he reflects, "I'm sure it's a worldwide organization in one form or another."

SLATED CHANGES

CALENDAR CHANGE

As you're probably aware, the University is moving to a new academic calendar in the fall of 1983. The early semester calendar, which Penn State has adopted, is used by more than half of American colleges and universities and by many institutions of higher education with which Penn State can be compared. Changes needed to make the calendar transition are proceeding as planned and the changeover will take place as scheduled in the fall of 1983.

SEMESTER CALENDAR

The early semester calendar will divide the academic year into two equal semesters. In each semester, you'll have fourteen weeks of instruction plus an Orientation and registration period and a final examination period. The summer session will include eight weeks of instruction plus Orientation/registration and final examinations. An extended summer session will be available for special instructional purposes, primarily for off-campus experiences such as internships.

The Calendar Conversion Council Communications Committee is planning a Semester Transition Handbook to be available to students and faculty at fall registration of 1982. The handbook will provide necessary information regarding course changes, new policies, and procedure changes.

CLASS SIZE

Class size will not increase across the board. Courses such as English composition which require small sections will keep small sections. Courses now taught in 300-student sections may be larger, but the pedagogy of large group instruction can handle those increases.

COURSE SEQUENCE

Some of the course sequences that currently require three courses will be restructured to two. To the extent possible, sequence courses will be offered in both the fall and spring semesters; but, as is true in the term calendar, fiscal limitations and campus size may not allow every sequence course to be offered both semesters each year. Every effort will be made to accommodate student needs.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE IMPOSED BECAUSE OF THE CALENDAR CONVERSION. Some students who would have completed a degree in two terms may now require two semesters, but some who would have required two terms can now complete their program in one semester. Specific questions about degree requirements should be directed to your academic adviser. If your adviser is uncertain of details, contact the office of associate dean for instruction in your college or the associate or assistant director at your campus.

GRADUATION

Commencement ceremonies will be held at the end of the spring semester and the summer session. Students completing degree requirements at the end of the fall semester will have the option of picking up their diplomas or having them mailed. They also could choose to participate in spring commencement ceremonies.

TUITION

TUITION FOR AN ACADEMIC YEAR WILL NOT INCREASE AS A FUNCTION OF THE CALENDAR CHANGE. However, it will be payable in two installments (one each semester) rather than three as under the current term calendar.