

"CHAIRMAN PATTERSON SPEAKS"

The Chairman of the Behrend Campus Committee on Student Affairs Norman B. Patterson, when asked by the Nittany Cub about the procedure for ratification of the new constitution recently adopted by the SGA, said, "We generally don't worry about the procedure at the main campus. It's usually a matter of rubber stamping."

Earlier the SGA had decided to send the constitution to the Senate Committee on Student Affairs at University Park rather than allow ratification or rejection by the student body first.

Patterson pointed out that the best method for ratification and the one that should probably be maintained even though there is no written format, is the following: one, document reviewed and acted upon by the SGA; two, reviewed by Student Affairs Committee - locally; three, again reviewed by the SGA; four, signatures of Director of the Campus, Dean of Student Affairs, and President of the Student Body or Chairman and; five, ratification by the Student Body.

After this, the document should be sent to the Senate Committee on Student Affairs at the main campus for final ratification.

"This," says Patterson, "is the normal procedure. It's the one we generally stuck to in the past and probably the best here."

Patterson went on to say that the main problem at this time is to have a "working situation on this campus."

At this time, there is no constitution and the SGA is now operating its elections under protocol in order to make them legal. If the present protocol did not exist there would be no legal representation of the students in the student government. Thus, the entire Behrend SGA is at this time based on the ambiguity that comes with a protocol.

"We may run into the same type of situation we had last year when the local Student Affairs Committee appointed an SGA. Then we're in the soup again."

He was quick to point out that under the new protocol positions on the SGA cannot be filled until the new constitution is adopted.

"This would mean that the people who were just elected will be standing around waiting to officially take office. This is why time is of the essence. The constitution should be ratified locally, through all channels so that we can go on with our local government," Patterson concluded.

OMBUDSMAN: UNIVERSITY ROBIN HOOD

"The independent champion of the little man. . ." this is what Newsweek magazine has called the newest champion of the underdog. Ombudsman is a Swedish word which is translated literally as "representative of justice." Although the concept of an ombudsman is relatively new in the United States, it has been in practice in Sweden for the last 100 years. \*\*\*\*\*

BY NANCY GLOVER \*\*\*\*\* In brief, the position of ombudsman is held by an educated man with extensive background in the field which he is representing. For example, the ombudsman found in a government situation would have to have an extensive background in politics and law. His duties consist of listening to complaints about the administration, not only by the "little man" but also by other members of the administration who become dissatisfied with administration policies or feel that some privilege or duty is being abused. After having heard these grievances, he sorts out the genuine ones and tries to remedy them. It should be understood, also, that once the ombudsman has determined the legitimacy of a complaint he puts all of his efforts into remedying the situation. It should be noted also, that the ombudsman is a separate office from the administration and the administration would have no power or jurisdiction over his activities.

For a moment, however, apply the idea of an ombudsman to a situation much closer to home. Consider for a moment, an ombudsman in the administration of a college campus such as Behrend. Qualifications would include an extensive background in education, student affairs, and administration. Of course, he should be a reasonably unbiased person who would be able to accept and support the legitimate grievances of the students.

If one stops and considers the benefits of such a program, its adoption should seem more plausible.

"Another Retraction"

Due to certain inaccuracies in the May 10th article dealing with the players production, The Nittany Cub is printing a retraction of any fallacies in the article and apologizes for anything injurious to the character of Miss Rizzo, Miss Crotty, Mr. Firewick, or Mr. Jarecki.

Reward

LOST: A pair of brown suede and alligator girls heels, size six were lost in the area of the Seminar Room in the Reed Building. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these shoes should contact Marcy Barton immediately. There will be a reward offered if they are returned.

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